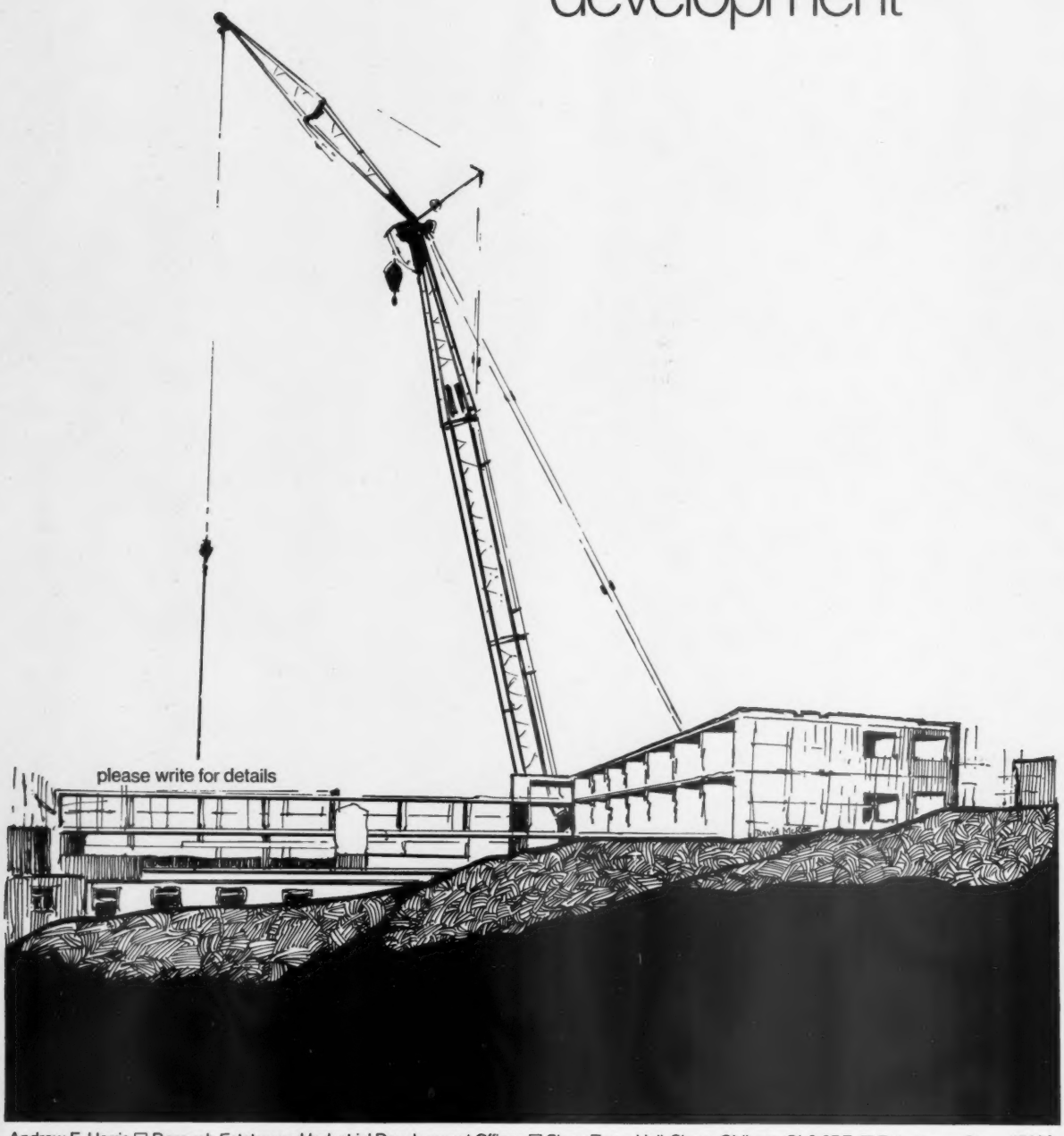
Trade and Industry

1 August 1974

Development of aircraft accident investigation

Oldham invites industrial and commercial development



please write for details

Andrew E. Harris ☐ Borough Estates and Industrial Development Officer, ☐ Shaw Town Hall, Shaw, Oldham. OL2 8RE. ☐ Telephone: Shaw 47292

Trade and Industry

1 August 1974

The first formal investigation of an aircraft accident took place in Virginia, USA, in September 1908. It was also the first case in which a passenger was killed. In Britain, such examinations are carried out by the Accidents Investigation Branch, which is now part of the Department of Trade. The work of the Branch and some of its more unusual cases are described on page 210.

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Britain

Aircraft accident investigation

The work of the AIB crash inspectors

The offices of the Department of Trade's Accident Investigation Branch may give a misleading impression of quiet. In this case, absence is a sign of diligence. Their work means that they are always on call to rush from their somewhat anonymous rooms in the Strand in London to anywhere in the world.

Their task is to inquire into accidents to civil aircraft over the United Kingdom, whether British or foreign; to British-registered aircraft over the high seas, and to take part with foreign administrations in investigations into accidents to British aircraft over their territories. They also sometimes cover accidents in developing countries where expert local staff are not available or in cases where the aircraft has been manufactured in Britain but has foreign registration.

The structure of the Accidents Investigation Branch has varied little since it was first set up at some time during World War I. It consists of a number of inspectors holding individual appointments. One of them, Bill Tench, is appointed Chief Inspector of Accidents, and he has to decide whether or not an investigation should take place.

Of the 27 crash inspectors now comprising AIB, 15 are former pilots and 12 are engineers. They work in teams, although often, in the case of a light-aircraft, only two – one ex-pilot and one engineer – need be involved.

If an aircraft receives substantial damage, or if serious injury is involved, the law requires the commander or the operator to notify the Department. Under this definition 262 accidents were notified last year, ranging from near-misses to fatal crashes. Fortunately, only 12 required formal investigation and one of these, the Trident disaster, resulted in a public inquiry. All formal investigations result in reports to the Secretary of State who makes the report public 'wholly or in part' unless there is good reason to the contrary.

Although AIB stringently deny that their work involves the glamour of detective fiction – some of their case histories make dramatic reading.

In 1967, for instance, a Comet went down in the Mediterranean off Rhodes. It was impossible to salvage the wreck which lay 1,500 fathoms under water but the investigators found that pieces of seat cushions reaching the surface were riddled with holes. Bodies were found which were thought to show signs of spattering from an explosion but X-rays failed to reveal any fragments. However, when they passed piano wires through the holes in the seat cushions they discovered that the wires converged on one point. Chemical analysis then showed traces of plastic explosives. The mystery was solved – a plastic bomb under a seat had caused the disaster. Ironically enough, a bomb is not an accident, but the AIB generally gets involved before anyone discovers it is a case of sabotage. AIB's Principal Inspector (Engineering) Eric Newton has established an international reputation as an expert detector of sabotage.

The crash inspectors have to keep up with every new development of the air transport industry, from flying, navigating and air traffic control to avionics and airframe construction. This means constant retraining. Even so, by the nature of their work, they are often confronted with a completely new set of problems, as when the wreckage is strewn over difficult terrain.

Bertram Morris, a Senior Inspector of Accidents (Engineering) remembers investigating a case for the Nigerian Government. A Bristol Wayfarer had come down in the Bush in dense jungle, 50 miles from Calibar. While the investigations were in progress, a local Chief arrived unexpectedly and brought as a gift about two hundredweight of bananas and two cockerels. Thinking it would be tactless to refuse, Morris distributed the bananas to his 100-strong workforce, a gesture which was probably well-received since they were prisoners

The wreckage of a DC-7 in Douala-Cameroon in March 1962, being investigated by AIB's John Nowak. The site could only be reached by motorboat and work was carried out between tides.

on loan from the nearest jail. In order to return the compliment, Morris presented the Chief with his luminous arm-band compass, a loss which took some explaining on his return.

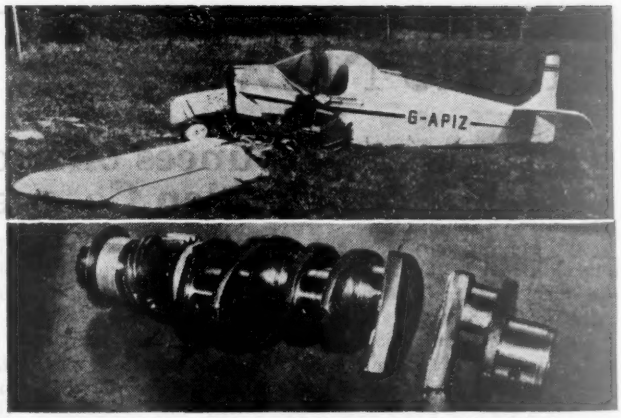
Anything untoward that comes to light during an investigation is passed on to the airworthiness authority and manufacturer immediately. The case of a light twin aerial work aircraft, which turned over in a cornfield on approach to Edinburgh, illustrates how fast the remedial process can work. The aircraft was a new design, produced in Germany and registered in Denmark. The AIB men clambered into the upside-down aeroplane and discovered that the 'carburettor heat' switch and the petrol switch were both off, whereas they should have been on. The switches were close together and, although within reach of the pilot, were both out of sight. It looked as if the pilot, instead of switching carburettor heat on, had switched the petrol off. When the pilot was told about the positions of the switches, he realised his mistake. Within 24 hours the manufacturers had altered the position of the switches and the Danish airworthiness representative had accepted the modified design.

However, not all investigations are so simple. Comparisons with detective work might suggest the search for a single cause – if not for a person then for a tangible fault as the guilty party. But, more often than not, this represents too naive a view. Most accidents are caused by a combination of factors. What AIB aim to do is to point to the cause from which there is no returning.

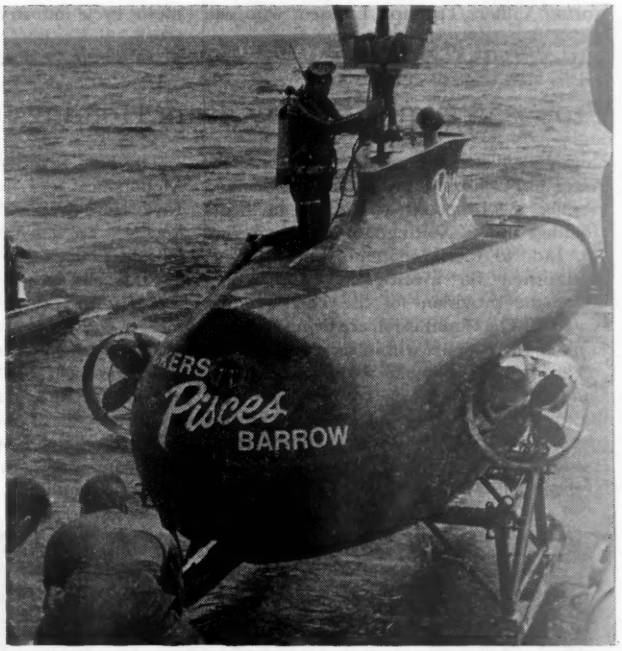
In rare cases, if more than one country is involved, the investigators may disagree – not about some mythical single cause but more probably about the emphasis to be placed on contributing factors. If this happens, the manufacturers take notice of all the criticisms, not just one, and will modify their design accordingly.

Examination of the Comet crashes in the '50s had significant effects on design. The investigations underlined the significance of metal fatigue in pressure cabins and also demonstrated the great importance of aviation pathologists whose findings pointed to high-altitude structural failure. Out of the Comet disasters many positive facts were learned which are now embodied in the present generation of big jets.

Compelled to work from one disaster to the next, the men of AIB take a strictly positive view. They know the results of their investigations may prevent further accidents or may influence the future course of aviation. Their interest lies not in the accident itself but in what can be learnt from it.



The results of engine failure in a 'Druine Turbulent'. Although the pilot suffered loss of memory, he was exonerated. Investigation revealed fatigue failure of the crank shaft. As a side-effect, oil had been thrown over the windscreen.



Vickers Pisces, a new method of finding wreckage on the floor of the ocean. Designed as a three-man submarine, it is equipped with a search light, sonar and TV camera.

Below: Wreckage of a Boeing 727 which crashed at Horley on its way to Gatwick Airport in January 1969.

Home News

Tony Benn announces offer of Government financial assistance to Meriden Co-operative

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, announced on 26 July that the Government has offered assistance to a maximum of £4.95 million under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 for the continuation of motor cycle manufacture at Meriden by a Workers' Co-operative. This assistance will take the form of a grant of £0.75 million and a loan of £4.2 million, and is subject to the satisfactory negotiation and conclusion of the necessary agreements, including the terms of business between the Co-operative and Norton Villiers Triumph Limited, who will undertake the distribution of motor cycles manufactured at Meriden. This offer has been accepted in principle by representatives of the Co-operative.

The Industrial Development Advisory Board was consulted, and it is the opinion of a majority of the Board that the proposal is not commercially viable. The Government has noted the Board's reservations but nevertheless takes the view that, notwithstanding the risks involved, the enhanced capacity, and increased exports, of the United Kingdom motor cycle industry that will result, and the benefits which will flow to industry as a whole from this valuable experiment in industrial organisation justify the provision of assistance from public funds. The Government is fortified in this view by the assurances from Geoffrey Robinson, the chief executive of Jaguar Cars, who has been advising the Co-operative, and Jack Jones that they will support the project and their belief in its viability, and by the co-operation developing with Norton Villiers Triumph.

Fuller details were given by Mr. Benn in Parliament on 29 July.

Proposed acquisition by Sears Holdings of Nottingham Manufacturing

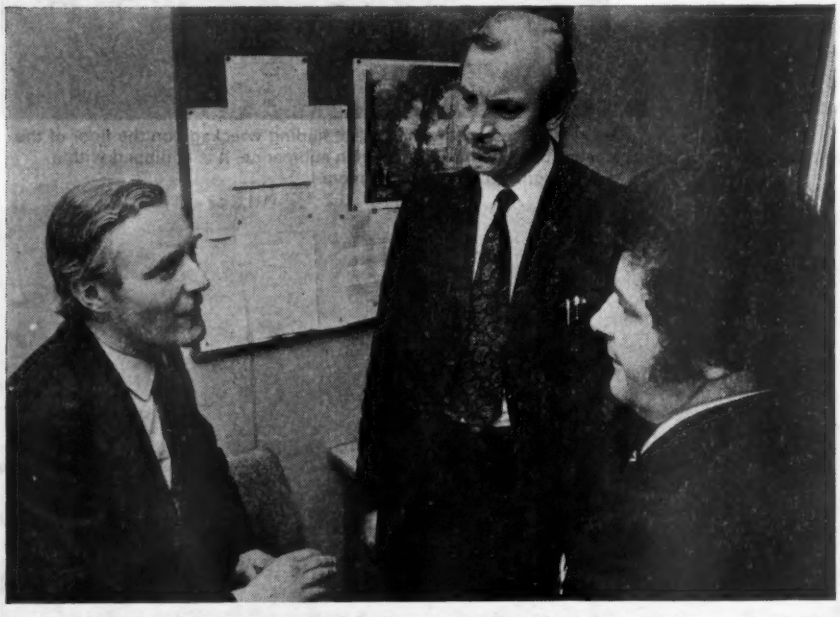
Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided to refer the proposed acquisition by Sears Holdings Ltd. of Nottingham Manufacturing Co. Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. The Commission are being required to make their report within six months.

The decision to make a reference to the Commission does not in any way prejudge the question whether or not the merger concerned is contrary to the public interest. It is for the Commission to report on this after investigation.

The Fair Trading Act 1973 empowers the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate proposed and actual mergers following a reference by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. The Commission are required to investigate and report to the Secretary of State whether the merger operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest.

Section 75 of the Act enables the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to refer a merger which creates or intensifies a 'monopoly' or involves the take-over of a company with assets of a value that exceeds £5 million.

The proposed acquisition by Sears Holdings Ltd. of Nottingham Manufacturing is being referred under the 'size of assets' criterion of the Act.



On a recent visit to Newcastle, Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, met representatives of the management and trade unions concerned with Court Shipbuilders Ltd. He is seen (left) with George Arnold (standing) and W. H. Porter, respective chairmen of the Tyne and Wear areas of the Tyne and Wear Federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Mr. Benn also met members of the Northern Economic Planning Council, the CBI and the Northern Industrial Development Board. He visited the head Post Office and attended the Durham miners' eve-of-gala dinner. (Picture by courtesy of *The Newcastle Journal*).

Abolition of the Pay Board and pay controls

The Order to abolish the Pay Board was signed by the Secretary of State for Employment on 19 July and came into effect on 26 July 1974 (SI Counter-Inflation (Abolition of the Pay Board). HMSO price 11p).

The Counter-Inflation (Abolition of the Pay Board) Order 1974 was approved by both Houses of Parliament on 18 July.

The effect of the Order is to abolish the Pay Board and all the associated statutory pay controls.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Scottish newspaper project: Mr. Benn's letter

The following letter was sent on 25 July by Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to Mr. A. Mackie, chairman of the Employees Enterprise Committee, 195 Albion Street, Glasgow:

'Since I wrote to you on 15 July the Industrial Development Advisory Board have considered your project. They were impressed as I have been, with your Committee's energy and enthusiasm, but they too have concluded that the project is not viable. However in my letter of 15 July I said that we would be prepared to consider your application for assistance under the Industry Act if the Action Committee were able to give me and the Secretary of State for Trade certain assurances.

'We have now had the opportunity to study your application further and I am pleased to tell you that if the Action Committee can satisfy me that the conditions set out below have been fulfilled, I am prepared to offer a loan of 50 per cent of the total cost of the project up to a limit of £1.75 million:

1 'The Action Committee have found from non-Government sources funds amounting to 50 per cent of the total capital cost of the project which you currently estimate at between £3 million and £3½ million from persons who have seen the advice given to the Government by their experts embodied in the report from the IDU (of which you have a copy) and the Industrial Development Advisory Board and are thus fully aware of the risk involved:
2 'of the finance from non-Government sources the Action Committee has actually and irrevocably received in cash the £475,000 subscriptions referred to in the enclosure to your letter of 3 July;
3 'the Action Committee has received in addition to the £475,000 a further £500,000 in the form of equity or long-term unsecured loans from commercial sources or the general public;
4 'as to the remaining money required from non-commercial sources, if this takes the form of secured loans, the lenders have agreed to share available security pari passu with the Government;
5 'the members of the Workers Enterprise and all other persons providing finance for the project have confirmed that they realise that, in the event of the project's failure, priority in claims on the assets would rank after priority creditors as follows:
   a all secured lenders including the Government;
   b all unsecured creditors;
   c shareholders;
6 'the Action Committee have accepted in writing that the Government's contribution of 50 per cent of the capital cost of the project up to a maximum of £1.75 million would be the only Government contribution to this project and that no further Government finance will be made available and have confirmed that all persons providing finance for the project are aware of this.'

CBI discussion paper: 'Industry and Government'

'Industry and Government', a CBI discussion paper, was approved for publication by the CBI Council on 17 July, when it was introduced by Lord Watkinson. It was published on 25 July and is available from CBI's Print and Publications Department, 21 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9LP. Price £1.00. The paper is described in a foreword by the President of the CBI, Mr. Ralph Bateman, as 'a constructive contribution to the current debate on the relationship between Industry and Government, put forward in the belief that a large part of our future prosperity depends on getting these relationships right. The paper does not try to provide a detailed blueprint or a set of instant answers to Britain's industrial and economic problems, rather it sets out a basis for public discussion and a framework for further CBI policy work.'

Section I discusses Existing Government-Industry Relations and Section II examines the economic role and the problems of Large and Small Firms and Multinational Enterprises. The third section – Industry and Britain's Economic Record – sets out the facts of Industry's performance and Government policies on Inflation, Investment and Growth and Overseas Earnings. Section IV – State Intervention – argues the case for a market economy and examines regional policy in this context. It ends with an analysis of the industrial policies put forward in 'Labour's Programme 1973.' Section V discusses European Experience in industrial policy.

The final section of the paper looks to an improved relationship in which Government will fulfil its functions efficiently and will provide Industry with the freedom, incentives and stability of policy that will enable Industry to do its job and increase the nation's wealth. Industry recognises that it has responsibilities as well as rights. This section therefore puts forward a set of basic principles of corporate conduct and organisation.

The acceptance of outline long term economic objectives is vital. These should lay down the framework for a succesful free enterprise market economy, encourage entrepreneurial skill and promise long term stability for Industry. 'It would be disastrous to try and meet our problems by undermining the free enterprise system by which British living standards have been built and are maintained.'

CBI believes that discussion through NEDC and the existing consultative machinery is now essential to agree outline long term objectives. The Government, the TUC and CBI must all be willing to commit themselves to their attainment, not in the next three to six months, but over a span of five to ten years. The paper concludes 'above all such a policy should aim to provide the continuity, stability and incentives by which Free Enterprise can go on increasing the nation's wealth and income, and improve its quality of life.'

The Queen's Award to Industry 1975

The office of The Queen's Award to Industry have announced that application forms for the 1975 Awards are now available. The Award can be applied for by United Kingdom-based organisations of any size producing goods or providing services, who seek recognition for outstanding achievement in increasing the exports of this country or in advancement of product or process technology.

The last date for application is 31 October 1974. Guidance notes are incorporated in the application forms.

Inquiries about eligibility for the Award and application forms should be made to: The Secretary, Office of The Queen's Award to Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, (Tel. 01-222 2277 Telex No. 27366).

Notes

The Queen's Award Scheme was instituted by Royal Warrant in 1965. It was orginally devised by a Committee chaired by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and revised in 1970 by a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. the Lord McFadzean. The reports of both Committees are available from HM Stationery Office.

The Award is made to 'industrial units' and not to individuals. Any organisation in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man contributing to either the visible or 'invisible' foreign currency earnings of the country, or a significant advance in the application of technology is eligible to apply to the extent that it carries out activities which meet the Award criteria.

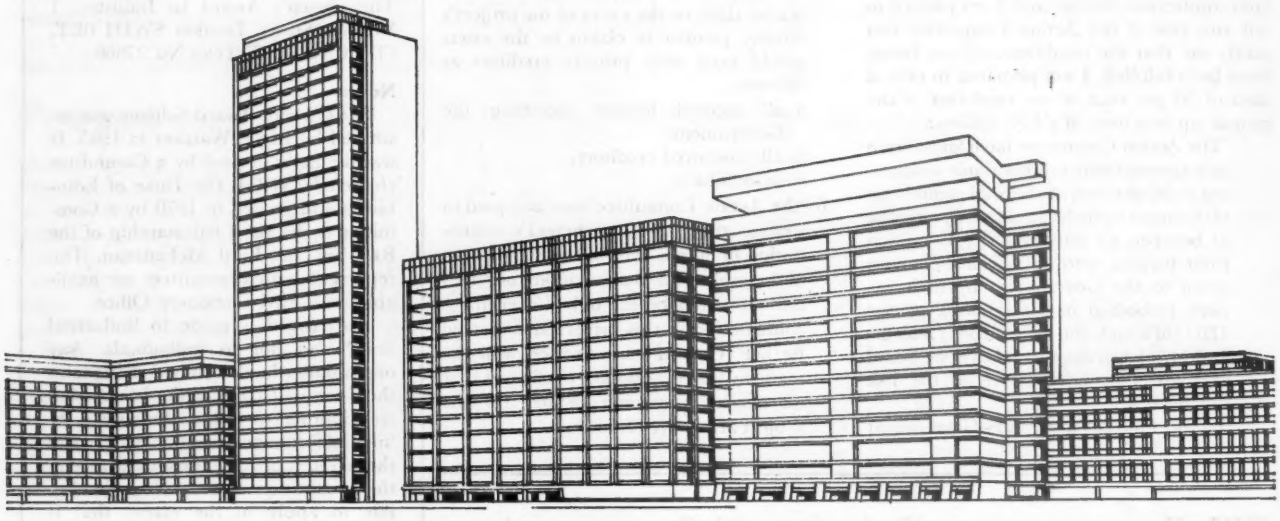
The Awards are announced each year on The Queen's actual birthday, 21 April. They are held for five years with entitlement during that period to use the emblem of the Award in a variety of ways. Concerns already holding Awards may apply for and receive additional Awards in respect of further outstanding achievement.

The Awards are made by the Queens on the advice of the Prime Minister, who is assisted in making his recommendations by an Advisory Committee which includes representatives of industry and commerce, the trade unions and the engineering institutions.

Applications for Awards to be conferred in 1975 cannot be accepted after the closing date of 31 October 1974. It is hoped that firms will in fact submit their applications well before this date.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OFFICES AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES

UP TO 5 YEARS RENT-FREE



Are high office costs in London and the South East stifling your business?

A call to the Industrial Expansion Team could be one of the best business decisions you've made this year.

HOW TO LOWER YOUR COSTS

Move to the Areas for Expansion, and you can get up to 5 years rent-free office space. Or equivalent help if you buy your premises.

What's more, we can give you a grant of £800 for each employee moved into the Area up to a limit of 50% of the new jobs you are creating there.

And we may be able to help with further selective assistance. Ask the Industrial Expansion Team for details.

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you have a choice between the Areas for Expansion and the rest of the country, and you can provide at least 10 new jobs in the Area, all you have to do is write or telephone for details.

We'll tell you all about the Areas for Expansion, and help you decide on a new location.

If you're interested, phone the Industrial Expansion Team on 01-834 2255 Ext: 88 (24-hour answer-service 01-834 2026), or send us the coupon.

To: The Industrial Expansion Team, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU.

Please send me details of the benefits available in the Areas for Expansion

Name_____

Position in Company_____

Company_____

Nature of Business_____

Address_____

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Telephone No._____

The Areas for Expansion

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

Official appointments

The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Sir Kenneth Berrill KCB in succession to Lord Rothschild whose appointment as Head of the Central Policy Review Staff in the Cabinet Office will come to an end in the autumn.

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry has approved the following appointments:

Sir William Ryland to continue as Chairman of the Post Office until the end-of the year to give time for the making of long-term arrangements.

Mr. Whitney Straight, Deputy Chairman, to continue until the end of the year to enable the Secretary of State to consider the general composition of the Post Office Board for the next five years.

Mr. Edward Fennessy to be re-appointed as managing director Telecommunications for a further three years.

The current terms of all these three appointments expire on 24 July.

Mr. Peter Williams of Penarth, Glamorgan, to fill a vacancy on the Post Office Users' Council for Wales.

Appointment of Marine Surveyor General

Captain A. C. Manson, CBE, will retire from the post of Surveyor-General in the Marine Division, Department of Trade at the end of August.

He will be succeeded by Mr. D. MacIver Robinson, OBE, CEng, formerly Chief Ship Surveyor who has already been succeeded by Mr. Norman Bell, C.Eng, formerly Deputy Chief Ship Surveyor.

New industry for Gelligaer

Hawkhead, Bray & Son Ltd. are to build a new factory on the Penallta Industrial Estate, Gelligaer.

The company, established in 1902, are based in Halifax and manufacture domestic water cylinders, copper boilers and allied plumbing components. They also have a factory in East Kilbride, Scotland. The new factory at Gelligaer will serve the whole of Wales and southern parts of England.

Construction of the new 12,500 sq. ft. factory has begun and the company hope to start production in early 1975. Employment will be provided for 20 people of whom 18 will be men.

Financial trusts – Inspectors' interim report published

The Inspectors' interim report on the affairs of First Re-Investment Trust Ltd., Nelson Financial Trust Ltd., and English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings Ltd., was published on 23 July. The report concerns transactions in the shares of The National Group of Unit Trusts Ltd., and other related matters.

The Inspectors, Mr. D. C. H. Hirst, QC and Mr. R. N. D. Langdon, FCA, were appointed on 10 July 1973 to investigate the affairs of First Re-Investment Trust Ltd. and Nelson Financial Trust Ltd., and on 10 December 1973 to investigate the affairs of English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings Ltd., under the provisions of section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948.

The Inspectors submitted their interim report in May 1974.

The report is available from HMSO. Price £2 net.

Companies in 1973

The number of new companies registered in 1973 was 67,349, an increase of almost 13,000 on the number for the previous year, according to the Annual Report on Companies in 1973 published on 23 July.

The total number of companies on the register is now over 637,500 of which 621,000 are private companies.

During the year 33,835 companies were dissolved or struck off the register and winding-up proceedings were notified in 7,240 cases of which 1,105 were compulsory liquidations.

The layout of the current Report is similar to that of the previous year. The introductory section provides information about the work of the various branches of the Department involved in the administration of the Companies Acts, while the second part of the Report is set aside for the statistical information.

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, watches assembly of airborne equipment at the Ilford plant of Plessey Avionics and Communication. Exports from the factory have reached 30 countries. Mr. Meacher also visited Plessey Aerospace at Romford.

Lower maximum retail prices for petrol and derv

New maximum retail prices for petrol and derv came into operation on 29 July. The new prices represent a reduction of 1p per gallon on all grades of petrol and derv sold throughout the country.

The new prices are a result of the reduction in VAT from 10 per cent to 8 per cent announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 22 July. They are contained in an Order made on 23 July by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy. Details of these new prices are as follows:

	Inner Zone	Outer Zone	General Zone
Motor spirit (petrol)			
***** 5-star grade	55p	55p	55½p
**** 4-star grade	54p	54½p	54½p
*** 3-star grade of not less than 96 octane	53½p	53½p	54p
*** Other 3-star grade	53p	53p	53½p
** 2-star grade of not less than 92 octane	52½p	52½p	53p
** Other 2-star grade	52p	52p	52½p
Diesel fuel (Derv)			
Class A1	53½p	53½p	54p
Class A2	53½p	53½p	54p

The Order referred is the Motor Fuel (Maximum Retail Prices) (Third Amendment) Order 1974, SI 1974 No. 1225 and is made under the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973.

The previous maximum prices for motor fuel and derv were introduced on 1 April. These prices – representing an increase of 5p a gallon in most cases – superseded earlier maximum prices which had been in operation since 12 February 1974.

The zones for petrol and derv are roughly:

Inner zone

London and the Inner Home Counties, the areas of Birmingham, Manchester-Liverpool, Humberside, Newcastle upon Tyne-Middlesbrough, Southampton, Bristol, South Wales, Pembrokeshire, Edinburgh-Glasgow.

Outer zone

England and Wales except for the Inner and General Zones and a narrow belt on either side of the Inner Zone area in Scotland.

General zone

Scotland, north of the Outer Zone and South of the Caledonian Canal, the Border Country, Central and North Wales, East Anglia, Devon and Cornwall (except Plymouth).

Restriction on Insurance Company

The Secretary of State for Trade has issued a requirement under Section 13(1) of the Insurance Companies Amendment Act, 1973 to Shop and Warehouse Mutual Insurance Association Ltd. that it shall cease taking on new business in Great Britain on and after 22 July 1974. The requirement also prohibits the variation of existing contracts.

The direction does not prevent the company satisfying its liabilities under existing policies.

CAA review of ATOL procedures

Following the recent financial failure of certain tour operators, the Civil Aviation Authority has been reviewing its procedures in connection with the processing of applications for Air Travel Organisers Licences, and the attendant bonding requirements, and has examined ways in which it might publish more information about licensing applications and decisions to enable retail travel agents, taking bookings from the travelling public, to check more easily the ATOL status of particular firms.

The Authority has decided that in future the period of the bond required from applicants for ATOLs should coincide with the period of the licence. Hitherto the bond arrangements have in some cases not coincided with the period of the licence, and this has led to some confusion. The Authority is also considering the best ways of ensuring that there are no avoidable bonding gaps.

The Authority will in future extend the range of information it publishes in its Official Record (Series 3), which already periodically provides lists of current licence holders and revocations, to include lists of

1 applications for which renewal has been refused;
2 applications for renewal which are still under consideration; and
3 expired licences, renewal of which has not been sought.

This additional information will be published shortly after the date on which the bulk of licences expire (ie shortly after 1 April and 1 October).

In addition, when the Authority makes decisions revoking or refusing to renew an individual licence, this information will be announced immediately to the press and at the same time communicated to the Secretary of the Association of British Travel Agents (whether or not the operator concerned is an ABTA member) without waiting for its publication in the Authority's Official Record.

The Authority will be publishing shortly a leaflet on Air Travel Organisers Licensing which will be distributed widely throughout the travel trade and to the public. It will explain how the licensing system works, and will provide an address and telephone number (01-405 6922, ext 417) within the Authority for those who wish to find out whether a particular air travel organiser holds a current licence.

Working Groups on disciplinary requirements in ships

During the Second Reading debate on the Merchant Shipping Bill, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, confirmed his Department's intention to establish separate Working Groups to examine in depth the disciplinary needs for sea-going employment in merchant ships and fishing vessels. The Department of Trade have now held meetings with representative organisations in the shipping and fishing industries and have reached agreement on the terms of reference and the composition of each Working Group.

The terms of reference will be:

'To review the disciplinary requirements on board merchant ships ("fishing vessels" in the case of the Fishing Industry Working Group) with particular reference to the framework of authority required in modern conditions in the interest of safety, good shipboard relations and effective operation, and to make recommendations.'

Working Group on disciplinary requirements for the Merchant Navy

The chairman of this Working Group will be Mr. L. F. Standen, Assistant Secretary, Head of Branch 4 of Marine Division, Department of Trade, and the following organisations have agreed to nominate representatives to serve on the Working Group:

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers
British Shipping Federation
Mercantile Marine Service Association
Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association
National Union of Seamen
Radio and Electronic Officers' Union

Working Group on disciplinary requirements for Fishing Vessels

The chairman of this Working Group will be Mr. M. J. Service, Assistant Secretary, Head of Branch 2 of Marine Division, Department of Trade, and the following organisations have agreed to nominate representatives to serve on the Working Group:

British Trawlers' Federation
Federation of British Trawler Officers
Scottish Trawlers' Federation
Transport and General Workers' Union
Radio and Electronic Officers' Union
(The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland will also participate in the work of the Group)

Mr. C. T. Newton, Marine Division, Department of Trade, will serve on both groups. Mr. T. A. Patterson, Marine Division, will be Secretary of both Groups.

It is also expected that the organisations nominating representatives to serve on the Working Groups and the Department of Trade will submit written evidence to the Groups. It is intended to invite other organisations known to the Department as representing employers and workers within particular sections of both industries similarly to submit evidence on matters of interest to them. It is expected that discussions will be held with those organisations whose members are likely to be affected by any recommendations of the Working Groups. It is also expected that the Working Groups will undertake visits to ports and canvass opinion and study conditions on the spot.

Other persons and organisations may wish to assist the Working Groups by submitting relevant information or evidence. Anyone wishing to submit such evidence is invited to do so in writing not later than 30 September 1974 to the Secretary, Mr. T. A. Patterson, Marine Division, Department of Trade, Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LP (tel. 01-405 6911, ext. 350).

It is expected that the Working Groups will take at least 12 months to complete their work.

Notes

The establishment of the Working Groups arose from the discussions between the Department of Trade and both sides of industry which led to the proposed changes in Clause 19 of the Merchant Shipping Bill, now before Parliament, in the disciplinary provisions affecting seafarers.

Representatives of seamen had taken the view that Sections 28-31 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970 were unnecessary, given the existence of other sanctions, but different views were expressed by representatives of masters and officers and shipowners and trawler owners.

A compromise was reached under which Sections 29 (disobedience of a lawful command) and 31 (absence without leave at time of sailing) were proposed for repeal, while Sections 27 (serious misconduct) and 30 (continued or concerted disobedience or neglect of duty) were retained. Maximum fines for certain offences endangering the ship or its crew were increased.

Although the compromise was reached, most of the parties concerned felt that changes in the longer term were desirable and it will be the task of the Working Groups to recommend what they should be.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, W.C.1.

The Price Commission's fifth quarterly report

The fifth Report to Parliament of the Price Commission has been published (HC 234, HMSO, price 50p). It covers the period 1 March to 31 May 1974 and also reviews the first seven months of Stage 3.

Achievements of the Price Commission

The Report comments that, given the inflationary pressures and the fact that the Price Code does not allow all cost increases to be passed on in full, it is 'an inescapable inference' that prices have risen much less than they would have done had there been no price control.

This cannot be measured. But what can be measured is the difference between what individual companies think they are entitled to under the Code and the amount of the increases that finally go through after the Commission's scrutiny. This scrutiny, which resulted in the Commission's modifying, rejecting or securing the withdrawal of about a quarter of all the pre-notified price increases in the three months covered by the Report, represents a saving of some £531 million in annual terms on trade prices; and still greater savings to the final consumer. And this is in addition to the saving which results from the price increases notified being less than they would probably have been without the control.

In addition, price reductions secured during the period from distributors who had exceeded their permitted profit margins amounted to £6 million. The fact that distributive margins were on average more than one percentage point below their permitted ceilings in the latest reporting period can be represented as a price saving of about £180 million a year. Also, the Commission's regional staff secured some 2,500 individual price reductions from smaller enterprises.

The Commission prescribed a reduction of 10 per cent in food distributors' permitted margins from 1 April; the aggregate saving to consumers will be considerable. (This cut was extended to other distributors by the Government, with effect from 6 May.)

The sources of inflation

The Report examines the sectors of industry contributing most to inflation and the main cost pressures leading to increased prices.

The sector with the largest price increases in Stage 3 has been oil, accounting for one-third of price increases; nationalised industries were the second largest contributory sector, accounting for 18 per cent; followed by 'other manufactures' with 17 per cent and food and drink with 15 per cent. This is in direct contrast to experience in Stage 2 (May–October 1973) when food and drink accounted for 31 per cent of all price increases and were the largest single sector.

The Report notes that hitherto the increased cost of materials and fuel has been the main factor pushing up prices. In the March-May period, this accounted for nearly 80 per cent of price increases while increased labour costs accounted for 10 per cent. However, the relative importance of these costs is now altering. The trend has yet to be reflected fully in prices but if it persists it will mean that 'in future labour cost increases and not material cost increases will be the main factor pushing up prices'.

Prospects

The peak in commodity prices has passed, and the rate of price increases at the manufacturing level has begun to abate, though many earlier increases are still working their way through to the consumer. These are hopeful signs. But the Report brings out that, in a period of much lower growth in output and productivity, high rates of increase in labour costs cannot be absorbed without an unacceptable rise in prices; or a dramatic fall in profits; or both.

The work of the Commission

The Report reviews the work of the Commission during the period March to May 1974.

Manufacturing and service industries: pre-notification of price increases

The average number of pre-notifications of price increases by companies in Category I (who account for about 50 per cent of total manufacturing output) doubled between autumn 1973 and the March-May 1974 period, reflecting the severe pressures on industrial costs. But there are 'grounds for hope that the peak has been passed', the number having fallen from a March peak of 329 to 282 in May. (Since the Report was written, the fall has continued.) Category II pre-notifications reached a peak in February and have also fallen since.

The level of price increase resulting from these pre-notifications – that is, after any rejections, modifications or withdrawals – remains high but has fallen in the latest three-month period. Accordingly, Category I price increases notified fell from 11.1 per cent in the three months December 1973-February 1974 to 10.2 per cent in the three months March-May 1974. More important, increases notified in terms of money fell from £781 million in the first period to £589 million in the second. Reductions secured by the Commission were substantial. As a result, over the whole of Stage 3 (ie from November 1973 to May 1974) the average price increase pre-notified by Category I companies was 11.1 per cent; the average increase resulting was 9.1 per cent. For Category II companies, the figures were 10.5 per cent and 8.2 per cent respectively.

Manufacturing and service industries: profit margin control

During the period under review examination of the net profit margins of Category I and II firms showed 41 firms in Category I and 87 firms in Category II to be operating in excess of their permitted ceilings. In many of these cases the Commission was satisfied that seasonal or other distorting factors accounted for the excess but in 16 cases the firms concerned were called upon to take action to eliminate the excess. In only one instance was it necessary, in order to secure compliance, to issue a Notice to the firm involved.

Over the last quarter of 1973 and the first quarter of 1974 firms in both Category I and Category II were on average significantly below their reference levels; where the firms were in excess, the amount, as a proportion of the turnover involved, was very small.

Distribution: control over margins

Examination of the gross and net margins of distributors showed that out of 520 reporting units there were 256 cases where the permitted level of one or both margins had been exceeded. In 130 cases the Commission was satisfied that the excess was caused by seasonal or other distorting factors but in 126 cases the firms concerned were called upon to take special action to eliminate the excess. By the end of May price reductions amounting to £6 million had been secured in respect of 48 cases and discussions continued with the remaining firms.

Analysis of periodic reports covering the fourth quarter of 1973 showed that the average net margin for all distributors was 94 per cent of the average net reference level. This was higher than in previous periods, due in part to seasonally high Christmas trade. The evidence available for the first quarter of 1974 is at present incomplete. It indicates a fall in both the average net and gross margins, no doubt due to the slackening of retail business during the energy crisis and the first quarter generally.

Regional organisation

The Price Commission opened its thirteenth regional centre – in Reading – during the period under review. The main tasks of these centres are to provide information and advice to businessmen and the public, to investigate complaints, to check the observance of the Code by businesses in their areas, especially those in Category III, and to collect information about the retail prices of certain fresh foods under the Fresh Food Reference.

During the March-May quarter the regional centres and the headquarters Information Centre received over 39,000 inquiries and complaints and secured some 2,500 voluntary price reductions. The regional centres completed some 200 inspections and began 550 new inspections of the records kept by firms in Category III. About one-quarter of the firms inspected were found to have exceeded their reference levels by significant amounts and the reductions negotiated by the regions should provide an annual saving to the consumer on a range of products of well over £500,000.

Other sections of the Report deal with the Fresh Food Reference and the changes to the Price Code effective from 6 May 1974. Appendices to the Report contain much statistical material not just on the work of the Commission but also on movements in prices, costs and profits.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1974.

Greeff Chemicals Holdings Ltd. and Chemical Securities Ltd.

Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH and Hohn & E. Surge Ltd.

Monopoly references on barristers and solicitors

On 24 July, John Methven, the Director General of Fair Trading, referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report, the restrictions on advertising by:

1 Solicitors in England and Wales,
2 Barristers in England and Wales,
3 Solicitors in Scotland,
4 Advocates in Scotland,

together with

5 The 'Two Counsel' Rule at the Bar in England and Wales, and
6 The 'Two Counsel' Rule at the Bar in Scotland.

Copies of the formal references are published below. Any person or organisation wishing to offer evidence in relation to these references should write to the Secretary, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

Notes

These references are made by the Director General under the powers given him by the Fair Trading Act 1973. They form part of a series of references covering various pro-

FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

MONOPOLY REFERENCES

Barristers' services and their advertisement

The Director General of Fair Trading, in excercise of his powers under Sections 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (hereafter called 'the Act'), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the supply of services of barristers in England and Wales.

The Commission shall investigate and report on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply and, if so, –

a in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;

b whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practice or in what other way;

c whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation and, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and

d whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Commission shall, for the purpose of this reference, limit consideration to agreements and practices relating to the advertising by barristers of their professional services, whereby they conduct their affairs as mentioned in Section 7(2) of the Act.

The Commission shall report on this reference within 18 months from the date hereof.

Director General of Fair Trading
Dated this 24 day of July 1974

FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

MONOPOLY REFERENCES

Advocates' services and their advertisement

The Director General of Fair Trading, in exercise of his powers under Sections 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (hereafter called 'the Act'), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the supply of services of advocates in Scotland.

The Commission shall investigate and report on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply and, if so, –

a in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;

b whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practice or in what other way;

c whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and

d whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Commission shall, for the purpose of this reference, limit consideration to agreements and practices relating to the advertising by advocates of their professional services, whereby they conduct their affairs as mentioned in Section 7(2) of the Act. In the reference 'advocates' means members of the Faculty of Advocates.

The Commission shall report on this reference within 18 months from the date hereof.

Director General of Fair Trading
Dated this 24 day of July 1974

FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

MONOPOLY REFERENCES

Solicitors' services and their advertisement

The Director General of Fair Trading, in exercise of his powers under Sections 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (hereafter called 'the Act'), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the supply of services of solicitors in England and Wales.

The Commission shall investigate on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply and, if so, –

a in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;

b whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practice or in what other way;

c whether any action or omission on the part of that person of those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation and, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and

d whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Commission shall, for the purpose of this reference, limit consideration to agreements and practices relating to the advertising by solicitors of their professional services, whereby they conduct their affairs as mentioned in Section 7(2) of the Act.

The Commission shall report on this reference within 18 months from the date hereof.

Director General of Fair Trading
Dated this 24 day of July 1974

fessions. The intention to make these references was first announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, in the previous Government on the 17 May 1973. The other professional references announced at that time were made in August and September. 1973 and are at present before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. They are:

The restrictions on advertising operated by
1 Accountants
2 Veterinary Surgeons
3 Stockbrokers
and the regulations of charges by scale fees of
4 Architects
5 Surveyors

Section 50 of the Fair Trading Act 1973 gives the Director General power to make monopoly references. Before 1 November 1973, when the Act came into force, only Ministers could make monopoly references.

Under the Fair Trading Act, a monopoly exists, among other conditions, when 25 per cent or more of a particular service is supplied by one person or by a collection of people acting together uncompetitively.

Solicitors and barristers have rules which prevent them from advertising. The 'Two Counsel' Rule restricts the work that QC's in England and senior counsel in Scotland can undertake and, in particular, prevents their appearing in Court without a junior.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission in their general report on professional services (Cmnd 4463), published in 1970, recommended that a number of individual professional services should be referred to them for investigation and report.

The decision to make a reference to the Commission does not in any way prejudge the question whether or not any aspects of the monopoly conditions or practices operate against the public interest. It is for the Commission to consider where the public interest lies, in the light of a thorough investigation into the facts.

In accordance with Section 55 of the Fair Trading Act, all references must contain a time limit within which the Commission must make their report. In these references the limit is eighteen months, although the Commission can, of course, make their reports earlier than this.

The Commission have the following monopoly references before them:

a Primary batteries
b Contraceptive sheaths
c Indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment
d Wheat flour and bread
e Bricks
f Frozen foods
g Restrictions on advertising by accountants, veterinary surgeons and stockbrokers
h The charging of scale fees by architects and surveyors
i Diazo copying materials, and
j Insulated electric wire and cables

The last two references were made by the Director General of Fair Trading on 15 July 1974. They were the first to be made by the Director General under the Fair Trading Act.

FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

MONOPOLY REFERENCES

Solicitors' services and their advertisement

The Director General of Fair Trading, in exercise of his powers under Sections 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (hereafter called 'the Act'), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the supply of services of solicitors in Scotland.

The Commission shall investigate and report on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply and, if so, –

a in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;
b whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practice or in what other way;
c whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation and, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and
d whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Commission shall, for the purpose of this reference, limit consideration to agreements and practices relating to the advertising by solicitors of their professional services, whereby they conduct their affairs as mentioned in Section 7(2) of the Act.

The Commission shall report on this reference within 18 months from the date hereof.

Director General of Fair Trading
Dated this 24 day of July 1974

FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

MONOPOLY REFERENCES

The Director General of Fair Trading, in exercise of his powers under Sections 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (hereinafter called 'the act'), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the supply of services of barristers in England and Wales.

The Commission shall investigate and report on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply and, if so,—

a in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;
b whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practice or in what other way;
c whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation and, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and
d whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Commission shall, for the purpose of the reference, limit consideration to agreements and practices, relating to restrictions on the supply by Her Majesty's counsel alone of their services, whereby barristers conduct their affairs as mentioned in Section 7(2) of the Act.

The Commission shall report on this reference within 18 months from the date hereof.

Director General of Fair Trading
Dated this 24 day of July 1974

FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

MONOPOLY REFERENCES

The Director General of Fair Trading, in exercise of his powers under Section 47(1) and (2), 49(1) and 50(1) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (hereinafter called 'the Act), hereby refers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the supply of services of advocates in Scotland.

The Commission shall investigate and report on the questions whether a monopoly situation exists in relation to such supply and, if so,—

a in favour of what person or persons that monopoly situation exists;
b whether any steps (by way of uncompetitive practices or otherwise) are being taken by that person or those persons for the purpose of exploiting or maintaining the monopoly situation and, if so, by what uncompetitive practice or in what other way;
c whether any action or omission on the part of that person or those persons is attributable to the existence of the monopoly situation and, if so, what action or omission and in what way it is so attributable; and
d whether any facts found by the Commission in pursuance of their investigations operate, or may be expected to operate, against the public interest.

The Commission shall, for the purpose of this reference, limit consideration to agreements and practices, relating to restrictions on the supply by senior counsel alone of their services, whereby advocates conduct their affairs as mentioned in Section 7(2) of the Act. In the reference "advocates' means members of the Faculty of Advocates.

The Commission shall report on this reference within 18 months from the date hereof.

Director General of Fair Trading
Dated this 24 day of July 1974

Technology News

Research facilities for high temperature metallurgical processes at Warren Spring

A purpose-built furnace laboratory for investigations into high temperature metallurgical processes has been commissioned by the Warren Spring Laboratory, the Department of Industry's research establishment at Stevenage. A unique facility in the United Kingdom, the installation is available for both the pilot-scale processing of customers' materials and for pilot-scale assessment of new processes.

With a floor area of more than 270 sq. m., the furnace laboratory is equipped with nine furnaces. These are: a 50-kg. high frequency induction furnace; 10-kg. high frequency induction furnace; 50-kg. arc furnace; rotary kiln 1 m. long with a 0.15 m. diameter; 75-kg. oil-fired tilting furnace; 0.76-m. diameter fluidised bed furnace; 0.07-m. diameter fluidised bed furnace; 0.1-m. diameter fluidised bed furnace, and a multi-hearth furnace.

A feature of the laboratory is the equipment provided for the collection, scrubbing and disposal of fumes and gases from pyrometallurgical operations. This equipment consists of a wet, high-energy scrubber of the variable throat type, in which gas volumes of up to 140 $m.^3$ $min.^{-1}$ and with a dust loading of up to 46 grammes $m.^3$ can be handled.

There are inherent difficulties in laboratory-scale pyrometallurgical studies due to exaggerated corrosion problems and heat losses which appear to make the process appear impractical. These difficulties are minimised by use of the larger-scale equipment now available. In addition, it is possible to obtain data on mass balances, energy requirements and environmental aspects of novel processes, so that more reliable economic assessments can be made.

The pyrometallurgical research programme, in the metals extraction division of Warren Spring Laboratory includes investigations into various roasting processes, flux-refining of metal scrap and the gaseous refining of liquid metals. The group working in this field also has experience of non-ferrous metal smelting (in blast, arc and reverberatory furnaces), chlorination processes and molten salt electrolysis, and much work has been carried out on improvements to processes employed for recovery of copper and other metals from scrap.

Results of contract research work undertaken by the Laboratory, and specifically-tailored to customers' requirements, is treated in strict confidence. Inquiries: The Director, Warren Spring Laboratory, Department of Industry, PO Box 20, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (tel. Stevenage (0438) 3388).

National Centre of Systems Reliability

The establishment of the National Centre of Systems Reliability has been authorised by the Department of Industry. The Centre will be based on the reliability expertise developed by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's Safety and Reliability Directorate. It will extend the UKAEA's existing services to industry in the assessment of the reliability and safety of commercial plant, which will continue to be operated as the Systems Reliability Service.

The commercial and data bank activities of the Systems Reliability Service will be complemented by an applied research unit which will undertake research and development of system reliability, technology in the national interest. The R and D programme will be directed to the solution of reliability and availability problems that arise in industry.

The Centre will be at Culcheth, near Warrington, under the control of the Authority's Director of Safety and Reliability. In addition to Authority staff from Culcheth, Harwell and Risley, the Centre will also have attached staff from a number of universities that are actively participating in this work. The Centre will be able to draw on the resources of all establishments of the Authority.

The Systems Reliability Service (SRS) was formed four and half years ago to make available to industry techniques and experience in systems reliability assessment that the Authority's Safety and Reliability Directorate had acquired in the course of 20 years' work on the safety of nuclear reactors and chemical plant.

Reliability data has been accumulated on a wide range of components and equipments and has formed the basis of the reliability data bank which is an integral part of SRS. Through an associate membership scheme many organisations in the UK and overseas have access to the data bank and project assessment services on a commercial basis.

Reliability assessments have been performed on a very wide range of industrial plants including mass production engineering plants, oil refineries, chemical plants, ships and protective systems, any of which can be regarded as an assembly of components liable to periodic breakdown.

Most plants include potential hazards, eg flammable materials, and these hazards may be reduced to acceptable levels by the analysis of the modes and effects of individual failures and by the provision of preventative or warning systems.

Inquiries: National Centre of Systems Reliability, UKAEA, Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth, Warrington, Lancashire WA3 4NE (tel. Warrington 31244, ext. 213/214/212).

Government to encourage interchange of scientists

A small unit to promote the interchange of scientific talent between the Civil Service and other employers has been set up in the Civil Service Department. This was announced by Robert Sheldon, Minister of State for the CSD, on 18 July.

Mr. Sheldon said it would mean more scientists, engineers and mathematicians taking a new job for a period, usually then returning to their parent employer, having broadened their experience, while also having made a valuable contribution to the work of the organisations to which they have been seconded.

The setting up of the unit was one of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Interchange of Scientists set up in 1972 under the chairmanship of Sir Hermann Bondi, Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence. The Task Force's Report is obtainable from Mrs. A. Goodridge, Room 1/109, Civil Service Department, Whitehall, London SW1.

Tapping the 50-kg arc furnace at Warren Spring Laboratory which forms part of the equipment available in the new laboratory established to carry out investigations into high temperature metallurgical processes.

Harwell develops thermo-mechanical generator for continuous low power

The Atomic Energy Research Establishment of the UKAEA has invented a new thermo-mechanical generator which will provide a highly reliable continuous source of low power (10 to 500 Watts) ac electricity, has very few moving parts and will operate for a number of years without maintenance. The electricity is derived from propane or any other combustible fuel, only very infrequent refuelling being necessary.

Three 25-Watt generators have already been ordered for evaluation studies in remote areas and potential uses include marine lights, telecommunication repeaters, weather stations and undersea systems.

The overall efficiency of the propane-fuelled system in its present state of development is 8 to 10 per cent which, although low compared to a power station, is better than other systems of comparable output, whether thermo-mechanical or thermo-electric. The present machine produces 25 Watts of electricity for a fuel consumption of 22 g. of propane per hour or approximately 200 kg. a year, running continuously. By comparison, a propane-fired solid state (thermo-couple) generator has 2-3 per cent overall efficiency and would require more than three times as much fuel, while the equivalent in the lightest available batteries would weigh 1½ tons and would need replacing annually.

There are no sliding or rotating surfaces in contact to give rise to friction, the only moving parts being the diaphragm, the armature and the displacer, all of which move freely and require no lubrication or other maintenance. This, combined with the low fuel consumption, makes the generator particularly suitable for use on sites where access is difficult or costly, or where fuel storage capacity is restricted.

The three prototype generators are being made by Harwell to gain field experience. One of these has been ordered by Preece, Cardew and Rider for powering a microwave repeater in Papua, New Guinea, and two more have been ordered by the Department of Industry for the National Data Buoy which is being manufactured by the SEATEK consortium for the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences and is due to be launched early in 1975.

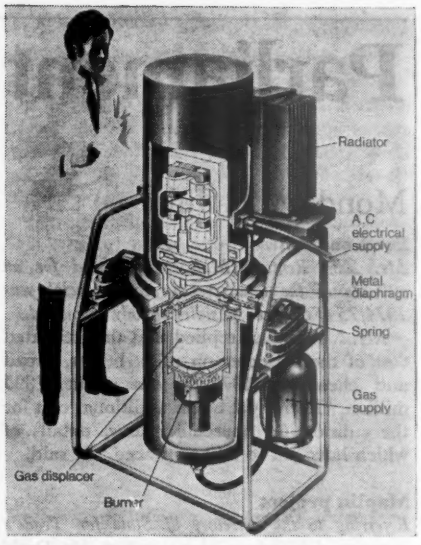
The Harwell machine is simple in principle and in construction and is capable of considerable further development and wider applications. Many of the features that it incorporates are the subject of patents.

It operates on the principle of the well-known but little used Stirling engine (originally patented in 1816), in which a working gas (helium) is alternatively heated and cooled by being mechanically driven by a displacer to and fro between the heated and cooled ends of a cylinder. The resulting cyclical gas temperature changes lead to corresponding pressure changes in the gas, and these are made to perform useful work. In the orthodox Stirling engine – usually a machine of 10-50 hp – this is done by a piston driving a crank to give a rotary movement which, through a further mechanism, operates the displacer.

In the much lower-powered Harwell design, however, movements of the gas displacer are very small and rapid, and the resultant pressure changes deflect a metal diaphragm which is directly linked to the armature of a moving-iron ac generator. All these movements take place at 100 cycles per second.

The engine is self-starting, taking up its own resonant frequency when heat is applied. In normal operation the burner heats the hot end of the cylinder to about 450 deg. C.

Technical information: Dr. A. Penn, Building 152, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0RA (tel. Abingdon (0235) 4141, ext. 2623).



The external appearance and internal construction of one design of the Harwell thermo-mechanical generator. The ac generator is shown in the upper part of the casing.

Britain and Russia to exchange tribology information

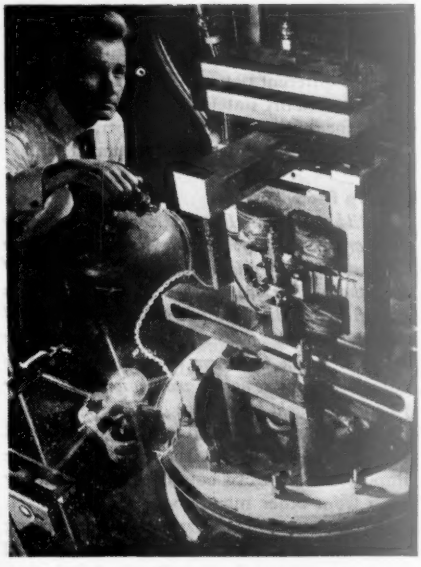
Agreement has been reached between Britain and the Soviet Union on an early exchange of existing information on tribology. This follows Anglo-Soviet talks held in Moscow early in July.

Discussions between British and Soviet tribology delegations on friction, wear and lubrication were held under the auspices of the 1968 Anglo-Soviet Technological Agreement. The British delegation was the first in the sphere of the applied sciences under the aegis of the Agreement and its success is therefore of special significance.

The mission, which embraced lectures, discussions and visits, opened up considerable possibilities for future co-operation and collaboration in tribology in the spheres of science, technology and commerce. Particular attention was devoted to questions connected with work on 'interacting surfaces' over a wide range of temperatures, speeds, loads and vacuum conditions.

As well as the agreement on an early exchange of existing information, it was felt valuable to carry out joint work directed at the creation of special lubricants and additives. Both sides agreed to discuss the proproposals separately within the appropriate organisations in their own countries, with the view of selecting those proposals which offer the best possibilities for successful co-operation. A Soviet delegation is likely to visit this country to further the co-operation successfully initiated in Moscow.

The British team was led by industrialist Dr. H. Peter Jost, Chairman of the Committee on Tribology, Department of Industry, and included: Mr. J. Campbell, Director, Glacier Metal Co. Ltd.; Professor J. Halling, Professor of Engineering Tribology, University of Salford; Mr. A. Havelock, Director, Industrial Technologies, Department of Industry; Dr. W. Roberts, Manager, National Centre of Tribology and Chairman of the Tribology Group, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and Mr. J. Robertson, Manager, Shell Industrial Lubricants and Automotive Fuels, Shell-Mex and BP Ltd.



The Harwell thermo-mechanical generator being used to light a 25-Watt electric lamp. The cylinder in the background holds 14 kg of propane, enough to light the lamp continuously for a month.

Worth noting

Steam turbine condensers. A two-day meeting on steam turbine condensers for land and marine use is to be held at the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, on 17 and 18 September this year. There will be speakers from generating boards, industry, research establishments and universities and there will be opportunity for those involved in the research, design, manufacturing and user aspects of condensers to exchange views and experiences. Details: Birniehill Institute, National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QU (tel. East Kilbride 20222, ext. 570).

Parliament

Monday, 22 July

Food subsidies

Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) asked for an estimate of the total cost in the financial year 1974/75 of the food subsidies already announced.

Mr. Maclennan replied that the estimated cost of the subsidies on milk, butter, bread and cheese in 1974/75 was about £395 million. 'There will be an additional cost for the subsidy on household flour, details of which have yet to be announced,' he said.

Maplin project

Referring to the Secretary of State for Trade's statement of 18 July on Maplin airport, Mr. David Madel (South Bedfordshire) – asked if he would have early discussions with the airline companies on the subject of diverting both regular and holiday services from the airports at Heathrow, Gatwick and Luton to the airports in the regions.

Mr. Shore replied: 'In the course of the review of the Maplin airport project, the airline operators were asked for their views about the air traffic forecasts and the implications of different patterns of air services. As I explained in my statement on 18 July, I have asked for the scope for diverting traffic to the regions to be considered in greater depth.'

Cheap food imports

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if, in view of the statement by his Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State that cheaper food could be imported from overseas than from the EEC, he would publish in the Official Report a list of the foodstuffs he had in mind and the prices at which they were at present delivered to British ports as compared with prices for similar foodstuffs brought in from the EEC.

Mr. Shore answered: 'The main food commodities which at the moment can be imported from third countries more cheaply than from other members of the EEC even after payment of the charges currently being levied as a result of our entry into the EEC are butter, cheese, beef and lamb. A few other food items, for example lemons, grapes and onions, are also competitively available at present from outside the EEC. But direct comparisons are difficult because of quality differences. Current CIF prices at British ports for beef, butter, lamb and cheese are not available, but the following price comparisons may be taken as a guide:

Lamb

The UK market is mainly supplied by New Zealand and domestic production. The latest available price (15 July) at Smithfield for frozen New Zealand lamb averaged 24.0p per pound. Following our entry into the EEC this lamb has borne a transitional tariff of 8 per cent *ad val.*, plus £0.5601 per cwt. (approximately 2 per cent *ad val.*). The full rate of the Community Tariff is 20 per cent *ad val.*

Beef

Because of the different presentations in which meat is supplied precisely comparable prices are not available for imports from EEC and non-EEC countries. However, at the moment for example, chilled boneless rump from the Argentine (after payment of import charges on imports into the UK as a result of our entry into the EEC of the order of 6p per pound, plus 8 per cent on the landed price) compares favourably with beef from the Republic of Ireland.

£ per long ton

Butter	New Zealand	German	French
First hand price for packet butter on the London Provision Exchange, week ending 12 July	554	560	595-646

Notes
(i) The New Zealand price includes a special EEC levy currently of £74 net.
(ii) The German and French prices are net of a subsidy through compensatory amounts.

Cheese	New Zealand	Irish	Dutch	French
First hand price for Cheddar type cheese on the London Provision Exchange, week ending 12 July	600	682	670-755	720

Notes
(i) The New Zealand price includes a special EEC levy currently of £213 net.
(ii) The Irish, Dutch and French prices are net of a subsidy through compensatory amounts.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Ministers of State: Eric Heffer
Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

EEC assistance to UK offshore oil industry

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (Cheltenham) asked the Secretary of State for Energy, what assistance he expected to be given by the EEC to UK companies for research and development in the offshore oil industry.

Dr. Strang, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, said: 'Under EEC Regulation No. 3056/73 there is provision for Community financial support for technological development projects directly connected with prospecting, producing, storing or transporting hydrocarbons. A budget has been allocated to this scheme of approximately £10 million per annum over the next three years. It is open to companies in any Member State to submit proposals to the EEC Commission and, in the first round, UK companies have an interest in three of the applications. No allocation of funds has so far been made. I hope UK firms will not neglect the opportunity this presents.'

Imports of duty-free nylon

Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker inquired about special concessions made for the EEC to allow the UK to import duty-free nylon and continuous fibre following the Flixborough disaster.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Duties on UK imports from EEC countries have been totally suspended in respect of nylon 6 polymer from 22 June to 31 December 1974 and suspended within a tariff quota of 3,500 tonnes of nylon 6 continuous filament yarn and monofilament from 5 July to 30 September.'

West Highland Free Press

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne (South Angus) asked what assistance has been provided or pledged by the Department of Industry to the West Highland Free Press, on what terms and conditions; and for details of other instances of financial support from public funds for newspaper operations.

'No selective assistance under Part II of the Industry Act has been provided or offered to the West Highland Free Press or any other newspaper operation to date,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'Regional Development Grants under Part I of the Industry Act are payable in the normal way on certain approved capital expenditure in premises in assisted areas used wholly or mainly for printing and publishing.'

Triumph Motor Cycles

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne asked what was the purpose for which £3.8 million financial assistance under the Industry Act was granted to Triumph Motor Cycles in 1973; and if the Secretary of State for Industry would set out the points at which that purpose differed from the purpose of his financial assistance now proposed for the same concern.

Mr. Heffer answered that, under the previous Administration, £4.872 million was invested in Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. in the form of non-voting Preference Shares under Section 8 of the Industry Act, 1972. He went on: 'I understand that the principal objective in providing this assistance was the creation of a healthy motorcycle industry in the UK through that company operating efficiently and profitably. I have no present intention of offering further assistance under the Industry Act to Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. The proposed Workers' Co-operative at Meriden will be a separate undertaking.'

Paper and board prices

Questions were asked by Mr. John Parker (Barking, Dagenham) on the current mill prices per tonne for fibre board and clean baled newspaper; the premium now being paid by the GLC to London Boroughs and by Thames Board Mills; and the tonnage and average per tonne, total values respectively, of imported wood pulp, and waste paper and board (including scrap paper and board products for use in paper and board making) for 1973 and to the latest available date in 1974.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'I understand that prices of board waste are between £35 and £45 per tonne whilst baled newspaper varies between £25 and £50. The supplement paid by GLC varies with circumstances but the minimum rate is £1.25 per tonne. I cannot give details of commercial arrangements made between a specific mill and its suppliers.'

Mr. Deakins gave the following import data:

	Imports					
	1973			1974 January-May		
	Thousand tonnes	Average value per tonne £	Total value cif £m.	Thousand tonnes	Average value per tonne £	Total value cif £m.
Woodpulp						
Mechanical wood pulp	432	50.13	22	182	64.66	12
Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades	422	86.12	36	165	118.49	20
Sulphate wood pulp	1,242	82.51	102	530	106.94	57
Sulphite wood pulp	443	82.00	36	194	106.92	21
Semi-chemical wood pulp	20	66.27	1	7	83.19	1
Total	2,559		198	1,078		109
Waste paper and board	29	25.11	1	18	52.08	1

Instrument makers

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked about the number of process control instrument makers, temperature and analytical instrument makers and medical instrument makers in the UK; and whether any one company holds a monopoly position in any of these fields.

Mr. Meacher said: 'In the industrial and process control sector of the instrument industry there are several hundred companies, and a similar number in the electronic and scientific instrument sector which covers temperature and analytical equipment. There are about 30 medical instrument makers. The larger companies may be active in two or more of these sectors. No company has a monopoly position.'

Tuesday, 23 July

Industrial development in Wales

'What action has been taken on building of further advance factories in Wales and attracting new industrial development?' asked Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare).

Mr. Heffer replied that, of the factories authorised in January 1973, nine were still being built. He continued: 'On 3 July I authorised a further four factories, making a total of 13. The expectation is that at all these factories construction will be completed over the period up to the end of 1975. I have every confidence that when they are ready, tenants will be found who will provide locally a welcome number of new jobs.'

Concorde

Mr. Stephen Hastings (Mid-Bedfordshire) asked when Concorde would enter airline service.

Mr. Meacher replied that in Mr. Benn's statement of 18 March, he said that British Airways should have three aircraft in April 1976 with which to begin scheduled services. 'This still holds good,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Air France services should begin at about the same time.'

The Industry Act

Mr. Tom Normanton (Cheadle) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, when he intends to publish his annual report on the working of the Industry Act for 1973/74.

'The printing arrangements are in hand for publication in mid-September, which is within the period required under Section 16 of the Act,' answered Mr. Heffer.

Wednesday, 24 July

EEC aid for redundant steelworkers

Mr. Peter Blaker (Blackpool, South) asked what was the amount to be received from the European Commission for assistance in retraining workers made redundant following the rationalisation of the works of the British Steel Corporation in the Scunthorpe area.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'The European Commission have allocated £700,000, as being half the estimated gross cost, to assist steelworkers affected by the closure and replacement of plant at Appleby Frodingham and Redbourn near Scunthorpe. This contribution embraces all the benefits available under the Iron and Steel Employees Readaptation Benefits Scheme; it includes provision for retraining but there is no specific sum set aside for this purpose.'

Investment in manufacturing industry

Mr. Eddie Loyden (Liverpool, Garston) asked for information on the total amount of investment in manufacturing industry in Great Britain for the years 1960, 1968, 1973 and 1974; what percentage of this investment came from (a) private sources, and (b) public funds; and what were the figures in actual terms and adjusted for inflation.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry in the United Kingdom in 1960, 1968 and 1973 was as follows:

£ million

	At current prices	At 1970 prices
1960	1,021	1,436
1968	1,639	1,846
1973	2,458	1,894

'Figures for Great Britain in 1960 and 1973 are not available, but in 1968, investment in manufacturing in Northern Ireland accounted for a little under 3 per cent of the United Kingdom total,' said Mr. Meacher. 'I regret that information is not available for answering the second part of the Question.'

Subsidies to private industry

'How many private companies in industry receive subsidies of public money; and what is the current total amount involved?' asked Mr. Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley).

'Expenditure on support to industry is expected to total about £800 million in 1974/1975,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'Details of the number of firms receiving support are not readily available.'

Industrial development in Merseyside and the north-west

Mr. Eddie Loyden asked for the number of projects involving over 500 jobs steered to the Merseyside county area in the last five years and how many companies employing over 500 persons had been attracted to the North-West Region.

Mr. Heffer replied: 'Eight projects involving over 500 jobs were established or confirmed in the manufacturing sector in the North-West Region during the last five years. Of these two were within the Merseyside Metropolitan County. Comparable data for projects in the service industries is not available.'

Parliament continued

Insurance Companies Amendment Act

Mr. Keith Stainton (Sudbury and Woodbridge) asked when the Secretary of State for Trade would complete the drafting of new rules in accordance with his powers under the Insurance Companies Amendment Act to govern the insurance business; when these regulations would come into force; and why there has been delay in concluding this matter.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 provides for the making of a considerable number of regulations, of which several sets will be lengthy and complex. Three regulations have been made. Consultations with the insurance industry and other interested bodies are well advanced and my Rt. Hon. Friend expects to make several more sets of regulations this year, beginning with the valuation of assets in both long term and general insurance business. It is hoped to make those regulations in September to come into effect in January 1975. Other regulations will follow as soon as possible and will come into effect at appropriate times. There has been no avoidable delay in the making of the regulations.'

Mr. Stainton also asked if, in the course of issuing new regulations under the Insurance Companies Amendment Act, the Secretary of State for Trade would confer with the British Insurance Association about assistance to policyholders following the collapse of Vehicle and General and Nation Life.

'We have for some time been having discussions with representatives of the insurance industry about assistance to policyholders of insurance companies that get into difficulties,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis. 'As the Hon. Member knows, as a result of such discussions a number of companies have been rescued by the industry recently.'

Manufactured goods

Figures were asked for by Mr. Loyden showing the total value of (a) manufactured goods imported into Great Britain, and (b) exported from Great Britain, in the years 1960, 1968, 1973 and the first six months of 1974, expressed both in actual terms and adjusted for inflation.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information for the United Kingdom:

	1960	1968	1970	1974	1974 Jan.-Apr.	1974 Jan.-June
Imports cif (a)						
At current prices (actual)	1,522	3,772	4,572	8,914	3,848	5,891
At 1970 prices	2,172	4,055	4,572	7,279	2,623	(b)
Exports fob (a)						
At current prices (actual)	3,105	5,413	6,806	10,456	4,082	6,441
At 1970 prices	4,274	5,990	6,806	8,705	2,955	(b)

(a) Sections 5 to 8, Overseas Trade Statistics basis.
(b) Values at 1970 prices are derived from the index numbers of the volume of United Kingdom trade, for which the latest information available relates to the first four months of this year.

Note: The difference between the actual value and the value at 1970 prices arises not only from changes in prices but also from, for example, changes in the quality of goods, in their sources of supply and markets, and in changing commodity composition of goods traded.

Lead content of petrol

Mr. Benyon (Buckingham) inquired about progress in the development of exhaust catchment devices for vehicles to enable the lead content of petrol to be maintained at an economic level without damage to the environment.

Mr. Meacher told him that an extensive programme of lead filter testing had been undertaken by the Warren Spring Laboratory and the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, and that the final report should be available in the autumn.

Provincial stock exchanges

Mr. Stainton referred to the collapse of the Liverpool stock exchange jobbing firm of Edgar Herriques and the existence now of only three jobbers outside London, and asked if discussions would be initiated as to the future of all provincial exchanges.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied that the provincial stock exchanges were amalgamated with the London Stock Exchange in March 1973 to form The Stock Exchange and all members of The Stock Exchange now have access to each of its trading floors.

'I understand that there are six jobbers outside London: two each in Glasgow and Birmingham and one in Liverpool and Manchester,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Export statistics

Mr. Roger Sims (Bromley, Chislehurst) wanted to know the normal interval between the end of each month's trading and the publication of detailed export statistics during 1972 and 1973; the most recent month for which such statistics are now available; and when the Department of Trade expects to be able to return to the previous publication schedule.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'About one month or less. The latest available issue of the *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom* is for March 1974; April and May issues are expected to be out on 25 July and 2 August, but an advance version of the June issue is in the House of Commons Library. Compilation of the statistics is back to the normal time-table and every effort is being made to catch up with publication.'

Imports of coal

Mr. Alexander Wilson (Hamilton) asked for information on the total tonnage of coal imported for each month since January up to the nearest available date; from which countries; and at what total cost to NCB.

Mr. Deakins replied: '331,000, 171,000, 271,000, 233,000 and 395,000 tonnes respectively for the first five months of 1974, mainly from the USA, Poland and Australia at a total cost of £21 million. There were no imports by the National Coal Board.'

Imports of oil from EEC

Mr. Peter Blaker (Blackpool, South) asked for an estimate of the value of imports of oil and oil products from EEC member countries in the first six months of 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

	£ million cif
Petroleum, crude and partly refined	114
Petroleum products	185
Petroleum gases	2

Thursday, 25 July

Consumer advice centres in Colne Valley

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked about plans for establishing consumer advice centres within the Colne Valley constituency.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Setting up a consumer advice service is a matter for each local authority. I understand from the West Yorkshire authority that there are no immediate plans for establishing a fixed consumer advice centre within the Colne Valley constituency, but the area will be served regularly by a mobile unit. The nearest permanent consumer advice centre is in Huddersfield.'

European computer policy

Mr. Moonman inquired about representations by the EEC regarding the Commission's policy statement on a European computer policy.

Mr. Meacher said: 'There have been dicussions between officials of the EEC countries and the Commission; a Resolution was adopted by the Council on 15 July which broadly followed that put forward as part of the Commission's proposals.'

Insurance for speedboats

Mr. R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) asked if legislation would be introduced to make it compulsory for all owners and drivers of speedboats to carry third party insurance.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend has no plans for such legislation at present. While third party insurance is clearly desirable and is frequently taken out, the administrative effort in making it compulsory would be disproportionate to the improvement in safety which would result. Emphasis is at present being placed on education and publicity to improve boating safety and to this end a Seaway Code (which contains a recommendation that third party insurance should be carried) was published in March 1974.'

Imported foods

Mr. Eldon Griffiths referred to the Question on foodstuffs more cheaply available from overseas countries than from the EEC (page 222) and asked for a similar list of foods which can be imported from the EEC at prices lower than those from overseas.

Mr. Deakins said: 'At present sugar, wheat, maize, barley, lard and certain grades of apples can be imported at lower prices from the EEC than from third countries. Precise price comparisons are very difficult to make because of differences in quality, grading and methods of presentation but the following information illustrates the differences in prices:

UK MARKET PRICES ON CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS

Commodity	Description	Unit	Date/Period	Price
Sugar				
EEC	EEC white sugar	£ per ton	July 1974	£150-£170 (1)
World	London daily price 96° raw cif UK in bulk	£ per ton	20/7/1974	£250
Wheat				
France	Feed wheat cif Bristol	£ per ton	17/7/1974	£58.50 (1)
World	US Dark Northern Spring (14 per cent) cif UK	£ per ton	23/7/1974	£96.75
Maize				
France	Feed maize cif Liverpool	£ per ton	17/7/1974	£66 (1)
World	US No. 3 Yellow cif UK	£ per ton	23/7/1974	£67.80
Barley				
France	Feed barley, cif Bristol	£ per ton	17/7/1974	£56 (1)
EEC	Feed barley, cif East Coast	£ per ton	19/7/1974	£53.75 (1)
World	US feed barley, cif Rotterdam (2)	£ per ton	10/7/1974	£59.74
Apples				
France	Average of 9 UK markets – Golden Delicious	p per lb.	17/7/1974	9.9p
Belgium	Average of 9 UK markets – Golden Delicious	p per lb.	17/7/1974	9.1p
World	South African Golden Delicious	p per lb.	17/7/1974	11p
Lard (at London Provision Exchange)				
Netherlands	¼ lb. packets	£ per ton	17/7/1974	£277-£280 (1)
World	USA (UK packed) 1 × 28 lb. packs	£ per ton	17/7/1974	£290-£309

Notes: (1) This price is net of a subsidy through compensatory amounts.
(2) No UK import figures available.

Census of Distribution

Mr. John Roper (Farnworth) asked for a statement about the publication of the Census of Distribution

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The first of a series of articles giving the final results of the Census of Distribution for 1971 will be published in *Trade and Industry* on 22 August, pending the publication later of Volume 1 of the Census Report. My Rt. Hon. Friend is sending the Hon. Member a copy of a summary table which will appear in this article.'

Assistance to aerospace industry

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked what amount of assistance has been given by HMG to each project in the aerospace industry in each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information in respect of Government expenditure on civil airframe and aero-engine projects:

	1964/5	1965/6	1966/7	1967/8	1968/9	1969/70	1970/1	1971/2	1972/3	£ million 1973/4 (provisional)
Concorde										
Airframe	3.7	9.2	18.2	24.0	31.1	31.0	44.0	46.1	45.4	47.6
Aero-engine (Olympus 593)	2.1	10.0	15.9	20.5	24.6	19.9	20.5	27.0	25.9	20.8
Other airframe projects										
HS146										1.2
Trident 2E				1.5	0.4					
Trident 3B					4.1	5.4	4.9	0.9	—	0.1
Trident Autoland				0.2	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.1	—
Airbus (initial development)					0.5	0.7				
BAC 111-500				5.3	3.1	0.6				
Jetstream			0.6	0.5	0.1					
Others	3.1	2.1	0.6	1.5	—	—				
Other engine projects										
RB211				0.5	10.2	28.2	15.2	69.0	50.1	16.2
M45H									3.6	1.9
RB207				1.2	0.7		0.1			
RB178		0.2	1.0	0.1						
Spey 506/510/511	2.9	1.3								
Spey 555			0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3			
Spey 512				0.8	0.1					

Notes: (1) The above amounts represent gross expenditure, and do not take account of amounts repaid to HMG under the terms of launching aid and other agreements. The amounts shown for the RB211 are net expenditure after deduction of repayments of short-term production financing.
(2) For Concorde, in addition to the amounts shown above there were total payments during the period of £12.9 million for capital expenditure and £48 million for other intra-mural expenditure at Government establishments.
(3) Loans totalling £5.05 million were made to Short Bros. and Harland Ltd. between 1965 and 1968 in respect of the Skyvan aircraft.

Friday, 26 July

Trade with Latin America

Mr. Jim Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) asked for information on the percentage of exports to, and imports from, Latin American countries during the past 10 available years.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

	Exports per cent	Imports per cent
1964	3.4	5.2
1965	3.3	4.9
1966	3.1	4.8
1967	3.3	4.5
1968	3.6	4.0
1969	3.4	4.3
1970	3.5	3.6
1971	3.7	3.2
1972	3.5	3.0
1973	2.9	3.0

Motor cars: consumer protection

Mr. Andrew Faulds (Warley, East) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would take steps designed to improve the situation reported by the Automobile Association that a high proportion of new cars are handed over to their purchasers by motor dealers without sufficient pre-delivery inspection to correct the defects in them.

Mr. Williams answered: 'I am asking the Director General of Fair Trading to consider the AA's findings in the context of his discussions with the Motor Agents' Association about their code of practice. The Road Traffic Act 1972 and the Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973 already provide substantial protection to buyers of new cars.'

Steel supply

A statement on the steel supply situation was requested by Mr. Clemitson (Luton, East).

Mr. Meacher replied: 'The recovery of steel production from the adverse impact of the energy crisis and the miners' strike has been hindered by several difficulties including shortages of ferrous scrap and of appropriate blends of coking coal, manpower shortages, and industrial disputes. Some shortages of steel persist though the balance between supply and demand for steel is believed to be generally improving.'

George Kent Ltd.

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether it is his intention to support with the equity votes of HMG the proposal for Brown Boveri to acquire a controlling interest in George Kent Limited, and if he will set out in the Official Report the initial cost of the IRC investment in George Kent, at 1974 prices, and the valuation placed upon that investment (a) at current market prices and (b) by Brown Boveri.'

'I am not in a position at this stage to make a statement on Government policy in relation to the Brown Boveri proposals,' said Mr. Benn. 'The Government holding was acquired in 1968 at a cost of £6.5 million. The current valuation can be assessed from published quotations; no exact valuation of the Brown Boveri offer can be made.'

Post Office finance

Mr. A. W. Stallard (Camden, St. Pancras, North) asked how the Secretary of State for Industry proposed to exercise his powers under the Statutory Corporations (Financial Provisions) Act 1974 in respect of the Post Office's losses in the financial year 1973-74.

Mr. Benn replied: 'The Post Office has been informed that I intend to seek Parliamentary approval for the making of an Order to pay compensation for price restraint in 1973-74 amount to £123,567,000. This is the sum of the audited deficits on the revenue accounts of posts, telecommunications and remittance services, and of the part of the Giro deficit which is attributable to price restraint. A draft Order seeking authority for this payment will be laid before the House as soon as possible.'

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Geoffrey Tiplady, of Linton Laboratories, demonstrates equipment to O. T. Hess, of Clarke Hess, New York, at the Nepcon-East electronics exhibition.

Electronics industry alters display and sales methods

From Joseph G. Palsa, Commercial Officer, British Trade Development Office, New York: 'Nepcon-East' is one of three Nepcon shows held annually in the United States; they will soon be joined by 'Nepcon-New England' which will make its debut in October this year in Boston, Massachusetts. During the past few years the electronics industry's exhibition needs and marketing techniques have changed drastically. Shows have increased fourfold and have become regional rather than national. They are now geared towards specific equipment or component markets (or both). The Nepcon shows are all related to electronics packaging and production equipment and associated components.

This was the fourth British joint venture in Nepcon-East. It was sponsored by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board. Ten companies provided an impressive display of equipment and technology.

DEK Printing Machines Ltd. exhibited for the first time in the United States its model 1200 automatic thick film printer. The company is confident of signing an agency agreement with an American distributor in the near future. Linton Laboratories Ltd. introduced a portable manually-operated co-ordinatorgraph, designed to enable the small development department or small production shop to complete printed circuit boards on its own. Here too an agency agreement is likely soon.

Critchley Bros. Ltd. exhibited card frames, which provide for a versatile method of mounting pc cards and components in control cubicles of electronic equipment. Noronix Ltd. promoted the Flo-Line linear assembly system for high volume production of printed circuit boards. Vero Electronics Ltd. exhibited components such as DIP boards, finger boards, card ejectors and an integral wiring system based on a board with integral sockets for mounting DIL packages.

Outreach UK Ltd. displayed the rotary dispensing system which speeds up pc board assembly work. Hallam Sleigh and Cheston Ltd. exhibited as Dorlec Corp. and displayed its Widney Dorlec Constructional system for consoles, instrument housings and cabinets. Considerable interest was shown by existing and potential customers.

Elite Engineering Ltd. showed its component preforming machine with adjustable hopper, designed to overcome the problems of feeding a wide range of axial lead components with varying physical dimensions. MCP Electronics Ltd. exhibited its complete range of 3/5 metallic compounds. Vickers Ltd. exhibited image shearing measuring microscopes with dimensional readout. Vickers' United States subsidiary reported numerous inquiries.

Overall the British exhibitors were pleased with the quality and quantity of inquiries. While component shortages have plagued the electronics packaging industry, most exhibitors were confident that the long-term future was very good.

UK record showing at NY gem display

A record number of 32 British firms were exhibiting at the New York International Jewellery Trade Fair, 28-31 July. Following the event, 12 of the British exhibitors are staying in the United States in a follow-on mission. The cities they are visiting include Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and Las Vegas where mission members will renew business contacts and follow-up inquiries received at the New York exhibition.

An aquamarine crystal – weighing about 172 lb. – was one of the highlights of the British display at the fair. Other British exhibits included a unique collection of 18 outsize crystals, shown by stonedealer Jack Sabbagh; hallmarked sterling silver watches; cigarette drums and lighters; zodiac rings and pendants; Victorian jewellery.

Also on show was the work of three British De Beers award winners: Jane Allen, Laurence Graff and Terry Waldron.

British participation in the fair and the subsequent follow-on mission are sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Export Council for the Jewellery and Giftware Industries.

BOTB aids builders at S. Africa event

At the fourth International South African Building Exhibition, 1-8 August, in Johannesburg, the largest overseas contingent of exhibitors is the British group of 24 companies. Organisation is by the Building Exhibition Overseas Division for the Building Materials Export Group in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board.

The range of products, aimed at South Africa's comparatively booming construction industry, covers woodworking machinery, architectural ironmongery, surface preparation and surface treatment equipment, sanitary ware, heating and air conditioning equipment.

On the second day of the exhibition the British Consul-General and Director of Trade Promotion in South Africa, J. F. J. Jardine, is to be guest of honour at a reception on the British group stand for heads of government, industry and commerce.

The International South African Building Exhibition is the largest specialised show in South Africa and this year covers three acres of space.

Two joint ventures at one Joburg show

From R. K. Duff, British Consulate-General, Johannesburg: The first combined Electra and Mining Exhibition opened 1 July at Milner Park, Johannesburg. The show attracted 142 exhibitors, which included 16 in a BOTB joint venture sponsored by BEAMA for electrical goods, and 15 in another BOTB venture sponsored by London Chamber of Commerce for mining plant and equipment. The joint venture stands were designed by the Technical Services Unit of the Fairs and Promotions Branch of the Department of Trade.

Advertising successful

Over 11,800 selected visitors attended during the five days, attracted by the massive direct mail and trade journal advertising that the organisers undertook to ensure a sound foundation for a successful show.

Early comment from the London Chamber exhibitors on mining equipment was most encouraging with many exhibitors surprised at the opportunities this market had to offer them. Firm orders for over R7,000 were taken while short term prospects indicated business worth R1,200,000 could result. R1 million came from one firm alone which has high hopes of obtaining even more orders for its equipment in the long term.

On the Electra side, BEAMA exhibitors all reported useful inquiries with excellent follow-up potential, while six firms took firm orders for useful amounts.

Britain had the only nationally sponsored stand at the show but, with imports of mining and electrical goods likely to exceed R1,000 million for the first time this year, it is not surprising British firms attracted a lot of attention and received a host of useful inquiries which they or their agents will be following up for some time to come.

The exhibition organisers are so pleased with the result that another show is planned for June-July 1976 and already 12,000 sq. ft. of space has been sold. As an added attraction, a seminar will be run at the same time when internationally recognised speakers will be invited to deliver papers on aspects of the mining and electrical industries.

Tokyo: orders worth some £2.5m in the pipeline

Business worth £100,000 and orders of about £2½ million in the next 12 months are expected by British companies as a result of the Pipes and Pipeline Equipment Exhibition held in July at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo. With the support of the British Overseas Trade Board, 11 companies, sponsored by the Engineering Industries Association, took part in this show – the most successful exhibition, in terms of future estimated orders, since the Centre opened in September 1973.

Competitive prices

The exhibition, which concentrated on ancillary equipment and services to make pipelines safer and more efficient, came when British firms with their competitive prices could interest Japanese concerns planning development projects abroad; indeed much of the business was for third markets.

Two companies taking part in the Exhibition – Solus Schall International of Hounslow and Winn and Coales (Denso) Ltd. of South London – each expect orders in excess of £1 million following their trip to Japan. Winn and Coales (Denso) Ltd. have been in the Japanese market for four years with their anti-corrosion system, while Solus Schall, exhibiting in Japan for the first time, found particular interest in their cathodic protection and underwater pipeline inspection services.

Positive inquiries

Among other satisfied British exhibitors, Barry Parker, sales manager of British Engines Ltd. of Newcastle upon Tyne, confirmed that he had picked up more positive inquiries for his company's high pressure steel valves and fittings in two weeks in Japan than in a year in England. Encouraged by market survey predictions that Japan will generate as much petrochemical work in 18 months as the whole of Europe together, Mr. Parker received inquiries to the value of £250,000 from the Japanese.

Mr. Newman, managing director of Apollo Sprayers Ltd. of Birmingham, who have been trading in Japan for 18 months, described the potential market for his company's equipment as 'very good'. He is now selling to many well-known Japanese companies and expects in future to be selling £250,000 worth of paint sprayers a year to Japan.

Exhibitors encouraged

Domnick Hunter Engineers Ltd. of Birtley, Co. Durham, exhibited their ultra high efficiency compressed air filters in Japan for the first time. Mr. Domnick, managing director, found 10 Japanese firms willing to act as distributors and during the next two-three years, hopes to sell £700,000 worth of filters to Japanese companies.

Col. Bob Scott of the Engineering Industries Association summed up the exhibition as an outstanding success. The exhibitors had been encouraged by the tremendous interest shown by prominent members of the Japanese industry, showing the large potential market for this type of equipment and service in Japan.

At the opening reception of the Pipes and Pipeline Equipment Exhibition held at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo from 2-6 July, Mr. Frank Smith (left) of F. Bamford & Co. Ltd. demonstrates a flow meter to Professor Keikichi Tanaka, President of the Pipeline Technology Research Association and influential figure in the mechanical engineering world in Japan.

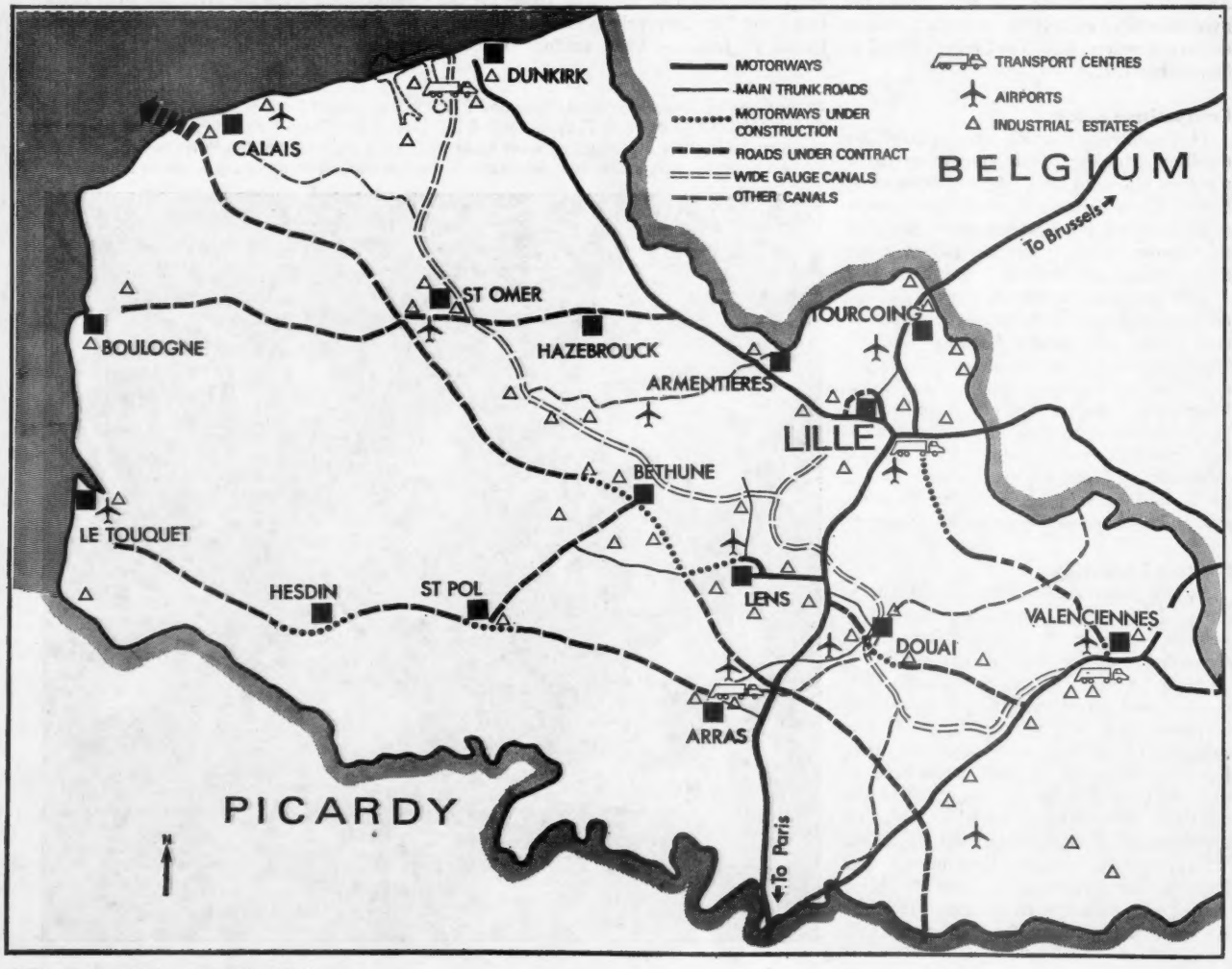
European Community

The Nord–Pas-de-Calais: crossroads and distribution centre for the Common Market

by B. H. Wilcox, HM Consul-General, Lille

It is by no coincidence that the Departments of the Pas-de-Calais and the Nord are increasingly establishing themselves as favourites with British firms interested in setting up a subsidiary in France. Until the Common Market began to exert its influence in 1958, only two British firms, Brampton Renold and Courtaulds, had set up subsidiaries in the Calais area. Since 1959, they have been joined by about 20 others. Their names include: C.L.E.F., Whessoe, Tioxide, Readicut, Universal Matthey Products, Rist Cable, Cimex International, Marlow France, Lec Refrigeration, Armstrong, Lynch, Ulmic, Faygate Properties Ltd., Mackenzie Hill, Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, Ferrymaster, Securicor and Hoverlloyd. Whereas firms able to enter the market by taking over existing French companies have no choice but to adapt themselves to the already established location and layout of factory and distribution units, whatever their advantages or disadvantages to the new management, it is significant that firms starting from scratch, and free to choose their own locations, are coming to industrial zones in the general areas of Calais, Boulogne, Dunkirk and Lille.

A look at the map explains why. Of all the possible sites in France, the general areas of Calais, Boulogne, Dunkirk and Lille offer the shortest lines of communication with the United Kingdom. By using a private plane, rail or car, combined with either the ferry or hovercraft, contact can be maintained by firms in the South of England more easily than with subsidiaries to the North of London. The completion of the Channel Tunnel in the early 1980s would make these advantages even



Brampton Renold's new factory for the production of transmission chain in the Seclin Industrial Zone near Lille.

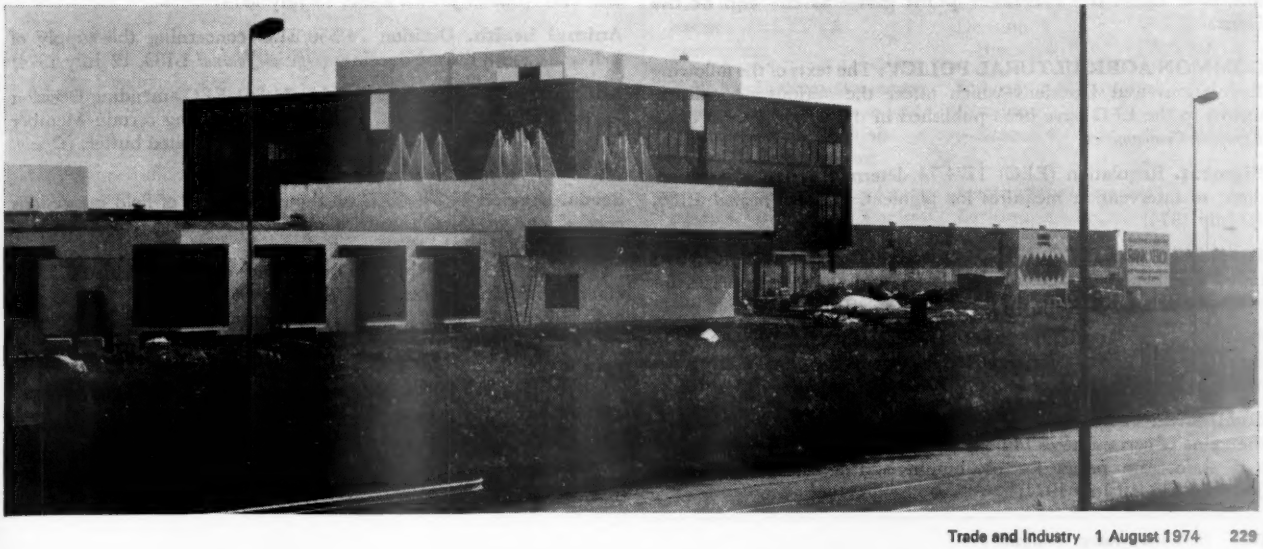
more marked with the introduction of high speed train services with London.

Future prospects for the Nord–Pas-de-Calais Region have vastly improved since the formation of the Common Market and the entry of the United Kingdom. From being a somewhat neglected area, with outdated industries, and a sensitive frontier zone in which new investment was discouraged, it has rapidly transformed itself over the past 10-15 years, thanks to heavy infrastructure investment, until it is today on the way to becoming the crossroads of the Common Market. With Lille as the Metropolitan hub, there are now motorways radiating to Paris, Dunkirk, Brussels, the Ruhr, Ghent, Antwerp and Tournai, and other motorways are soon to be built to Calais and Boulogne. At a later date, the Calais–Arras motorway will be extended southwards to Dijon and so on to Switzerland. There have been improvements to the canal system linking Lille with Calais, Dunkirk, Belgium and the Ruhr. There are also express train services to Paris, Brussels, Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk and to Dijon and Switzerland. Large scale extensions, costing about 1,000 million Francs, are being added to the Port of Dunkirk, which will enable it to compete on an equal footing with the rival ports of Antwerp, Rotterdam and London for containerised cargo, oil and petrol shipments and bulk commodity traffic. As for air communications, Lille Airport offers services to Paris, Lyon and Marseilles, and London and Frankfurt.

Special significance for British firms

These developments have a special significance for British firms interested in stepping up the sale of their products and improving their distribution network in continental Europe following Britain's entry into the Common Market. The advantages of the Nord–Pas-de-Calais area would apply equally to manufacturing units and distribution facilities in reducing costs. When irreducibly high transport costs threaten to price a product out of foreign markets, it usually pays to build a factory nearer to potential customers and possibly also to incorporate a proportion of locally-made components. Before doing so, however, it is important to see whether economies can be made in present shipping and distribution costs. A number of products, which are competitively priced in the United Kingdom and which command a ready sale there, cannot be sold in any volume in the French and other continental markets due to high transport, distribution and handling charges. Not enough British firms are as yet treating the French market as an extension of their own. Only a few companies have so far established their own warehousing

Administrative block of Rank Xerox's 25,000 sq. m. factory, due to open in September at Neuville-en-Ferrain near Lille.



and bulk breaking point in France from which to make direct shipments to distributors and retail outlets. Very few French retailers, not forgetting the major supermarket and hypermarket chains, are as yet geared to direct importing. Goods shipped to them through wholesalers' warehouses can easily price themselves out of the market. In the case of goods with a high value to weight ratio, a four-day delivery service to French customers can be given from stocks held in England by road and air shipments using the airports of Southend and Le Touquet.

The first thought of many British firms is to establish themselves in the Paris area. It cannot be denied that Paris has many advantages over other parts of France so far as a showroom or sales offices are concerned, particularly in the case of goods normally sold through central buying offices. Nevertheless, traffic conditions in the Capital, combined with the high cost of labour and land, make it advisable to look elsewhere for factory or warehouse sites. Not only is the Nord–Pas-de-Calais very convenient for shipping to the Paris area, but it is strategically placed for making deliveries throughout the centre of the Common Market and extending as far as Switzerland and Austria.

This helps to explain the success of the Centre Régional des Transports (CRT) at Lesquin, near Lille, which has recently been set up to cater for the ever increasing volume of road, rail and air traffic passing through Lille on its way to and from such centres as Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam, the Ruhr, Alsace-Lorraine, and Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk en route for the United Kingdom. Not only is the CRT situated at a focal motorway point, but it is also well placed for canal, railway and air traffic.

The CRT has nearly 500 acres of land at its disposal, of which 330 acres have been earmarked for warehouses; 40 acres for a lorry park for 500 vehicles; and 125 acres for a wholesale and distribution centre. Its facilities include: a French Customs Office; Regional Freight Office; a large refrigerated warehouse; a reception centre comprising: restaurant, cafeteria, hotel, toilets and rest rooms; postal and telex services; banking facilities; and a first-aid point.

Bulk-breaking points of this kind could have much to offer to British exporters of consumer goods, hand tools and spare parts and the like. If we are to reap full benefit from our entry into the Common Market, we shall need to develop our exports of popular price consumer goods. This cannot be achieved without reducing distribution costs to a minimum and making back-up stocks available in France as a guarantee of quick delivery. Companies not wishing, intially, to go to the expense of having their own warehouse in France would be able to make use of the back-up services provided by a commercial warehousing firm. They would then only need a network of salesmen to call on customers and send orders to the warehouse for servicing. A well-known British shipping company, with branches covering the whole of France, Belgium and Western Germany, has taken space in the Lille Centre Régional des Transport to provide warehousing and distribution services of this kind.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 4174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: The texts of the following Regulations and Decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 1774/74 determining the commencement of intervention measures for pigmeat. (*Official Journal* L186, 10 July 1974)

Eggs. Regulation (EEC) 1775/74 amending Regulation 164/67/EEC fixing the factors for calculating levies and sluice-gate prices for derived egg products. (*Official Journal* L186, 10 July 1974)

Poultrymeat. Regulation (EEC) 1776/74 amending the Annex to Regulation 199/67/EEC fixing the coefficients for calculating levies on derived poultrymeat products. (*Official Journal* L186, 10 July 1974)

Ovalbumin and lactalbumin. Regulation (EEC) 1777/74 fixing the value of certain items to be used in calculating the import duties and sluice-gate prices for ovalbumin and lactalbumin. (*Official Journal* L186, 10 July 1974)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 1824/74 determining the commencement of measures concerning private storage aid for beef and veal. (*Official Journal* L190, 13 July 1974)

Animal health. Decision 74/330/EEC concerning the supply of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine. (*Official Journal* L189, 12 July 1974)

Milk and milk products. Decision 74/341/EEC amending Decision 72/465/EEC and Decision 72/475/EEC authorising certain Member States to sell butter at reduced prices as concentrated butter. (*Official Journal* L189, 12 July 1974)

Seeds. Decision 74/348/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops. (*Official Journal* L191, 15 July 1974)

Decision 74/349/EEC on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries. (*Official Journal* L191, 15 July 1974)

Decision 74/350/EEC amending Decision 73/83/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out on seed-producing crops in Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom and Decision 73/84/EEC on the equivalence of seed produced in Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. (*Official Journal* L191, 15 July 1974)

Tobacco. Regulation (EEC) 1839/74 laying down detailed rules for the granting of special aid for certain wrapper leaf tobacco. (*Official Journal* L193, 17 July 1974)

Rice. Regulation (EEC) 1808/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 467/67 as regards processing costs and the value of by-products in respect of the various stages of rice processing. (*Official Journal* L188, 12 July 1974)

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 1809/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 1770/72 on detailed rules of application relating to the additional conditions with which imported wines for direct human consumption have to comply. (*Official Journal* L188, 12 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1832/74 laying down detailed rules governing the distillation of table wines during the period from 15 July to 30 September 1974. (*Official Journal* L192, 16 July 1974)

HARMONISATION OF LEGISLATION

Gas volume meters. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L189, 12 July 1974, contains the text of Directive 74/331/EEC adapting to technical progress Directive 71/316/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to gas volume meters.

Further information: Department of Energy, Gas Standards, Government Buidlings, Saffron Road, Wigston, Leicester LE8 2US (tel. Wigston 5354).

Agricultural or forestry tractors. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L191, 15 July 1974, contains the texts of the following Directives:

Directive 74/346/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to rear-view mirrors for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

Directive 74/347/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the field of vision and windscreen wipers for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

Further information: Department of Industry, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN (tel. 01-834 4422, ext. 305).

Additives to foodstuffs. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L189, 12 July 1974, contains the text of Directive 74/329/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners, and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs.

Further information: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH (tel. 01-834, 8511 ext. 6549).

EEC/INDIA AGREEMENTS: *Trade and Industry*, 6 June 1974, page 510, contained information about three agreements between the European Economic Community and India, including one on trade in jute products. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L189, 12 July 1974, contains the text of Decision 74/336/EEC providing for the autonomous increase of imports into the Community up until 31 December 1974 of jute products covered by this Agreement.

Further information: Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textiles Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU (tel. 01-834 4422, ext. 530).

UNCTAD GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES: *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974, contained information about a number of Regulations and Decisions introducing tariff preferences and quotas provided for under the UNCTAD Generalised System of Preferences. Regulation 3509/73 dealt with jute and coir products coming from India and jute products coming from Bangladesh. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L188, 12 July 1974, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1815/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 3509/73 to take account of the Agreement between the EEC and India concluded in March and the Agreement between the EEC and Bangladesh which will shortly be completed.

Further information: Department of Trade, Tariff Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ (tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 5522).

COMMUNITY TARIFF QUOTA – TEXTILE PRODUCTS: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L186, 10 July 1974, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1769/74 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for processing work in respect of certain textile products under Community outward processing arrangements.

Further information: Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textiles Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU (tel. 01-834 4422, ext. 715).

ITALIAN IMPORT DEPOSIT SCHEME: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L192, 16 July 1974, contains the text of Decision 74/352/EEC revoking Decision 74/298/EEC amending Decision 74/287/EEC whereby the Italian Republic was authorised to take certain safeguard measures under Article 108 (3) of the EEC Treaty.

EEC Information Unit's new telephone system means speedier inquiry service

The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about the effects of membership of the EEC and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources. A new telephone system has been introduced giving immediate access to several extensions. This should eliminate delays caused by extensions being engaged and provide a better service for callers at any time from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. every weekday.

New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions. The Unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. The new telephone number is: 01-222 7877, ext. 4301 (six lines).

EEC information – Inquiry points at Customs and Excise headquarters

General inquiries on EEC matters which are the concern of HM Customs and Excise may be made to the following telephone extensions:
HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel: 01-626 1515

		Extn.
Community Transit	International Customs Division D —Branch 1	
	traders A-K	2263
	traders L-Z	2561
European Communities—general inquiries	International Customs Division D —Branch 4	3055
EEC Free Trade Agreements with EFTA countries	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2385/2165
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, except Greece and Turkey, Anglo-Danish free trade agreement	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2165
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, Greece and Turkey	International Customs Division D —Branch 2	2561
Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement, Channel Islands, Isle of Man	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2504
Compensatory levies	International Customs Division G —Branch 3	2343/2307
Copies of public notices and customs forms on EEC matters	General Services Division—Unit 4	3079/2069

Trade Information

Peter Shore urges international good neighbourliness

'If ever there was a time for good neighbourliness internationally, this is it,' said Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, addressing the World Trade Center's Association General Assembly on 22 July.

Mr. Shore went on: 'It is vital that the major developed countries should avoid "beggar my neighbour" policies, whether by way of restricting imports or artificially stimulating exports. If the pledge which we all accepted in OECD (see *Trade and Industry*, 6 June, page 501), is observed both in the letter and in the spirit, then we have a better chance of avoiding the dangers which otherwise threaten the maintenance of the level of world trade. If it is not, we can easily find ourselves plunging into recession on a world scale from which all countries will lose.'

On the need for international co-operation, Mr. Shore continued: 'Turning to the balance of payments, the British Government is resolved not to seek a solution on these problems by inflicting economic damage on the rest of the world. At the OECD meeting on 30 May we gladly joined the other member countries in the declaration aimed expressly at preventing unilateral action on trade which could have a detrimental impact on international economic relations.

'We shall have to learn to live with the fact that the oil producers will have a surplus of some $70 billion this year, and that their yearly surplus will fall only slowly to the end of this decade. We have to press on with reforming the world's monetary system, and in particular with creating a new international system for re-cycling the vast currency surpluses which are now building up on the oil producers' accounts.

'Of course, quite apart from any special measures, countries thrown into deficit as a result of the rise in oil prices feel under pressure to reduce their debts. The simple fact is that if each developed country tries to eliminate quickly the deficits caused by quadrupled oil prices, this would invite international disaster. It would lead to cut-throat competition from which all would suffer and none would gain. And let us be clear about this. It is not only countries in deficit which have a responsibility to show restraint. There is an international responsibility which rests also in present circumstances on oil-consuming countries fortunate enough to be in surplus. If they build up ever larger surpluses at a time when others are facing deficit problems exacerbated by the oil price rise, the consequence must be to sharpen the problem for other countries. It is vital therefore that countries which enjoy substantial surpluses should take steps to run down their balances.'

Referring to the UK balance of trade, Mr. Shore said: 'You have come here at a time when world trade is suffering a setback, when the world's economies are adjusting to the strains imposed by last year's oil crisis. You will recall that during the winter we in Britain had the additional self-inflicted trauma of the three-day week.

'Our recovery from this last tribulation has been more rapid than most of us dared to hope. Our industrial production is back to normal. Britain's exports are rising; and indeed their value during the first six months of this year was a third higher than in the same months of 1973. With British goods strongly competitive I confidently expect our exports to rise still further in the same period ahead.

'Our trade balance in goods other than oil is now improving. And it certainly needs to improve. In the last quarter of 1973 this deficit averaged £240 million monthly; in the first quarter of this year it was down to an average of £193 million; and in the second quarter it was cut to £144 million. Also, we have net monthly earnings of £100 million or so from services and

James Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, speaking at the inauguration of the Great Britain-China Centre in London. On his left, are Sung Chih-kuang, Chinese Ambassador to Britain, and Malcolm MacDonald, president of the centre. The centre evolved from the Great Britain-China Committee set up two years ago.

other current transactions. But the deficit in our oil trade, reflecting the quadrupling of oil prices in the last quarter of 1973, is a formidable and additional problem – to us and indeed most of the world.'

Mr. Shore referred to freeing trade and said: 'In the longer term it is very desirable to get rid of many of the restrictions which hamper trade. The opportunity is there in the GATT multilateral negotiations due to start this autumn. Besides the direct benefits of action to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers the experience nations get from discussing liberalisation constructively can help build the mutual confidence we now need if we are to resume a healthy growth of world trade. In all our deliberations we have to remember that the world's poorer countries expect and deserve a better deal in the future.

'Britain can fairly claim to have shown the sincerity of our intentions by the efforts we put into helping the USA and the EEC to resolve the GATT Article XXIV (6) issue which had been under discussion for more than a year. This, you may recall, concerned the compensation which the EEC needed to make the third countries for upward movements in the tariff of the three acceding states which were previously "bound" in the GATT at lower levels. I hope the major remaining requirement for effective negotiations, enactment of the US Trade Reform Bill, will be fulfilled in the not very distant future.'

ECGD news

OECD reduces credit terms for ships

Agreement has been reached within the Organisation for European Co-operation and Development for tighter limits on the terms of government support for export credits for ships.

The countries which subscribe to the existing Understanding (first reached in 1969) have agreed that the maximum period of state-supported credit will be reduced from eight years to seven; the maximum amount of credit permissible will be reduced from 80 per cent to 70 per cent of the contract value; and the minimum interest rate will be raised from 7½ per cent to 8 per cent. (The UK with a number of other countries will charge an interest rate of 7½ per cent but the addition of bank and other charges raises this to an effective 8 per cent.)

The new terms become effective immediately, but transitional provisions apply to contracts which were under negotiation at that date. These will benefit from the old terms provided that the official decision to support the credit is taken by 1 September and the contract is signed by 1 October.

These changes are part of the continuing work in the OECD to reduce state aids which distort normal competitive conditions in the shipbuilding industry. The change in the interest rate reflects higher interest rates currently prevailing throughout the world.

All the UK's main shipbuilding competitors are parties to the Understanding and will be introducing the revised terms so that there will be no competitive disadvantage to UK shipbuilders through the UK's participation.

The new terms apply to ships built for export for which credit is provided by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, also to ships built in the UK for UK shipowners under the Home Credit Scheme for Shipbuilding which is operated by the Department of Industry. Inquiries about the scheme as it applies to exports should be made to ECGD (01-606 6699, ext. 617) and inquiries relating to the Home Credit Scheme should be made to the Department of Industry (01-834 4422, ext. 790).

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 15 August.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
28.40	*penta*Sodium triphosphate	Sodium tripolyphosphate	31 December 1974	15135
73.15	Alloy steel wire of circular cross-section and of which the diameter is not less than 0.6 millimetre and not more than 5.0 millimetres; containing not less than 0.05 per cent and not more than 0.25 per cent by weight of carbon, not less than 0.20 per cent and not more than 1.7 per cent by weight of manganese, not more than 0.07 per cent by weight of phosphorus, not more than 1.5 per cent by weight of silicon and not more than 0.07 per cent by weight of sulphur; having a tensile strength not greater than 1,500 newtons per sq. millimetre	Alloy steel wire	31 December 1974	15264
85.21	Containers for semiconductor devices, conforming to SOT 48 outline, consisting of nickel or nickel alloy lead frames nominally 1 in. square with discs of beryllia brazed to the centre thereof, with or without copper studs brazed thereto, the whole or part being gold plated	Transistor headers	31 December 1974	14126
	Headers for semiconductor devices, conforming to TO 60 outline, consisting of screwed copper studs with beryllia pad brazed to the centre thereof and with three nickel pins projecting from the pad. Overall diameter 0.470 in. Overall length 0.802 in. The whole or part being gold plated. Separate caps for the above specified headers consisting of nickel eyelets with alumina filling bearing three hollow nickel posts. Overall diameter of the caps not exceeding 0.434 in.	Transistor headers	31 December 1974	14126
	Headers for semiconductor devices, conforming to TO 3 outline, consisting of mild steel base plates, with overall length of 1.531 in. and overall width of 1 in., with or without copper, or nickel plated copper stud or insert. Each plate containing two or more lead/wire attachments hermetically sealed and isolated by glass from metal base plate	Transistor headers	31 December 1974	14126

Tariff and Trade Notices

Italy

Health regulations for imports of fish

Following difficulties encountered in inaccurate applications of veterinary regulations regarding imports of prepared or preserved fish into Italy, a summary of the requirements is set out below.

The compulsory Certificate of Health and Origin must state:

Description of contents

Type of oil or other substance used for canning

Net weight of contents

Name and address of manufacturer of producer

The same details must be specified on tins or containers.

Consignments not accompanied by the prescribed certificates are liable to be refused entry by the Italian customs.

Inquiries relating to this notice should be addressed to OTAR section, Department of Trade, Export House.

EDB ext. 466/467/288

Spain

Newsprint: home compensation tax reduced

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 20 July 1974, announced a reduction in home compensation tax levy to 1.5 per cent on newsprint tariff heading 48.01 A 1 valid from 1 July to 30 September.

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Eric Deakins (left), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, was host to Mijnheer G. L. Van Den Daele, Burgomaster of Ghent, and his wife when they made a tour of the Houses of Parliament recently. During the Burgomaster's four-day visit as a guest of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he had the opportunity of discussing the final arrangements for the British Week in Ghent, which will take place from 6-14 September.

Further Information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: 01-222 7877); and Export Data Branch (EDB), Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (CRE or EDB) and the appropriate telephone extension number. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Opening of global quotas

In *Trade and Industry*, 25 July, page 184, two of the tariff headings – for quota 32, 58.9 and quota 36, 61.61.0A – should have read 58.09 and 61.01A **EDB ext. 462/471/472/473**

Portugal

Sugar: drawback of import duty

Trade and Industry, 9 August 1973, published details of Order 459/73, authorising until 30 April 1974, the import under drawback of raw sugar intended for the production of granulated sugar. The validity of this order has been extended to 30 April 1975. **EDB ext. 460/461**

Switzerland

Agricultural products: price supplements

Swiss *Recueil* No. 25 of 8 July 1974, published a revised list of rates of price supplements levied on imports of certain agricultural products. The following BN headings are affected:

ex 0507	ex 0515	ex 0705	ex 0706	ex 0805	ex 1001	ex 1002	ex 1003
ex 1004	ex 1005	ex 1006	ex 1007	ex 1101	ex 1102	ex 1105	ex 1106
ex 1201	ex 1202	ex 1203	ex 1204	ex 1208	ex 1209	ex 1210	ex 1405
ex 1501	ex 1502	ex 1503	ex 1506	ex 1507	ex 1512	ex 1513	ex 1802
ex 2106	ex 2302	ex 2303	ex 2304	ex 2306	ex 2307		

The new rates took effect on 1 July 1974. **EDB ext. 460/461**

Malta

Salt, dried split beans, peas: import licensing

The Malta *Government Gazette*, 12 July 1974, announced that with immediate effect the importation of salt, other than in small packets or containers, dried split beans, and peas have been placed under import licensing control. **EDB ext. 471/472/473/462**

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Lebanon

Tariff reductions

The Lebanese authorities have issued decrees amending the customs tariff on the following items:

Item no.	Description	Rate of duty
34.03	Lubricating preparations and preparations of a kind used for oil or grease treatment of textiles, leather or other materials, but not including preparations containing 70% or more by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous materials:	
11	a For industrial use*	Free
21	b Other (no change)	18% *ad val.*
69.14	Other ceramic articles:	
11	a Intended for use in the manufacture of gas heaters*	1% *ad val.*
21	b Other (no change)	18% *ad val.*

* The exemption from duty on item 34.03 and reduction in duty on item 69.14 are subject to compliance with the conditions and provisions stipulated by the Customs Administration.

EDB ext. 420/475

Iran

Vehicle spare parts

The Iranian Ministry of Economy has announced that, pending further notice, import of following items under BN tariff number 87/06 require the prior approval of the Ministry:

Chassis and related components (all marks and manufactures)
All bending work and pressed parts and body (only local manufactures) and parts
Front and rear bumpers (only local manufactures)
Stake-body and related parts (for all manufactures)
Radiators and their parts (for all manufactures)
Seats and upholstery (for all manufactures)
Fuel tanks (for all local manufactures)
Air tanks (for all local manufactures)
Exhaust pipes and baffler containers (for all manufactures)
All electrical wiring and clips (for local manufactures)

No prior Ministry approval is required for the import of other goods falling under BN 87/06. **EDB ext. 420/476**

New tariff

An unofficial English translation of the 1974/75 Iranian tariff is now available. British exporters with inquiries should specify the Brussels numbers in which they are interested. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Saudi Arabia

Prepacked foods: new labelling regulations

New regulations on the labelling of prepacked foods were published in the Saudi Arabian *Official Gazette*, 22 February 1974. The regulations will take effect six months from the date of publication. An unofficial translation is available to British exporters on request.

EDB ext. 420/475

Sierra Leone

Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1974

Public Notice No. 21 of 1974 published in the Sierra Leone *Gazette*, 28 June 1974, amends with effect from that date Parts A and B of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act 1968. The following tariff numbers are affected:

PART A
22.01/02, 30.03, 32.05/06, 32.09, 37.06/07, 42.02, 42.03, 60.04, 60.05, 61.01/02, 61.03/04, 61.07, 61.08, 61.09, 61.10, 61.11, 63.01, 84.12, 85.15, 87.02, 98.10, 97.01/05, 98.12.

PART B
B.2, B.3.

EDB ext. 473/472/471/462

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
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EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

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Togo

Beer: mercurial values

The dues and taxes on all beer imported into Togo have been altered. Further information is available.

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Zaire

Fish: import licensing

The importation of dried, salted fish is now subject to import licensing. All requests for licences will be referred to the Banque du Zaire. **EDB ext. 462/471/472/473**

Zambia

Suspension of duties

The Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 1974 amends the Customs and Excise (Suspension) Regulations 1970 by the insertion of the following under the appropriate headings:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Effective rate of duty
Ex 84.18.99	Filtering machinery for agricultural purposes	Free
Ex 84.20.21	Platform scales (non-domestic) for agricultural purposes	Free
Ex 84.29.90	Grain milling machinery	Free

EDB ext. 471/472/473/462

South Africa

Customs tariff applications

Customs Tariff Application List 636, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 26 July 1974, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

Bed linen, bedspreads and kitchen linen, and

Steel tyre forgings for rail wheels, crane and railway wheel tyres and traction gear rings.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to Commercial Relations and Exports Department. **CRE ext. 5274**

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. 01-222 7877 (extension at end of each notice)

EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Madagascar

Forestry products: export regulations

According to a recently published decree, exporters of all forestry products must first apply for permission to the 'Direction des eaux et forêts et de la conservation des sols' providing information about the goods to be exported. Exportation of certain forestry products may be abolished. Further information is available.

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Indonesia

Pesticides: duty reduced

The Indonesian Government has reduced import duty on pesticides (BN 38.11.29) from 40 per cent to 6 per cent for the period 17 May 1974 to 1 April 1975. **EDB ext. 469/468/401**

Thailand

Tariff reductions

The Thai Ministry of Finance announced on 10 July 1974, reductions in the rate of import duty on 306 items including food and pharmaceutical products, machinery, and various raw materials. The following BN numbers are affected:

01.02	01.03	03.02	03.03	04.02	04.03	07.04	07.05	08.01	10.01
11.01	12.01	13.01	13.03	15.01	15.02	15.03	15.04	15.05	15.06
15.07	15.08	15.09	15.10	15.17	19.02	21.07	25.02	25.03	25.04
25.08	25.10	25.11	25.13	25.14	25.17	25.18	25.19	25.20	25.21
25.22	25.23	25.24	25.25	25.27	25.28	25.29	25.30	25.32	26.01
26.02	26.03	26.04	27.02	27.03	27.05	28.01	28.04	28.05	28.06
28.07	28.10	28.12	28.13	28.14	28.15	28.16	28.18	28.19	28.22
28.23	28.24	28.25	28.26	28.27	28.28	28.29	28.30	28.31	28.32
28.33	28.34	28.36	28.37	28.38	28.39	28.40	28.41	28.43	28.44
28.45	28.46	28.47	28.48	28.49	28.52	28.53	28.54	28.55	28.57
28.58	29.02	29.03	29.04	29.05	29.06	29.07	29.08	29.09	29.10
29.11	29.12	29.13	29.15	29.16	29.17	29.18	29.19	29.20	29.21
29.22	29.24	29.25	29.27	29.28	29.29	29.30	29.31	29.32	29.33
29.34	29.37	29.39	29.40	29.41	29.43	30.01	30.03	30.05	38.01
38.02	38.03	38.04	38.05	38.06	38.07	38.08	38.09	38.10	38.12
38.13	38.16	38.18	38.19	40.12	40.14	40.16	44.01	44.02	44.03
44.04	44.05	44.06	44.07	48.01	51.04	73.08	73.13	73.15	75.01
77.01	78.01	79.01	81.01	81.02	81.03	81.04	84.01	84.02	84.03
84.04	84.05	84.06	84.07	84.08	84.09	84.10	84.11	84.13	84.14
84.16	84.17	84.18	84.19	84.20	84.22	84.23	84.26	84.27	84.29
84.30	84.31	84.32	84.33	84.34	84.35	84.36	84.37	84.38	84.39
84.40	84.42	84.43	84.44	84.45	84.46	84.47	84.48	84.49	84.50
84.56	84.57	85.08	89.04						

Details of the new tariff rates are available. **EDB ext. 401/468/469**

Lord Mayor of Sheffield (centre), Councillor Leonard Cope, asks Stan Cooper, his mace bearer, to explain details of the mace to Arthur Nees (right) leader of a party of New Zealand buyers now in Britain, during a civic reception to the buyers at Sheffield town hall. Looking on (left) are Mrs. Nees and the Lady Mayoress. The civic reception was also attended by Mr. C. J. R. McCorquindale, Mayor of New Lynn, Auckland, who was also in Britain for a few weeks visiting Sheffield firms for whom he acts, in his commercial capacity, as agent.

South Vietnam

Certain non-essential products and commodities: import ban
The Vietnamese Minister for Trade and Industry announced on 1 July 1974 the import suspension of a number of products and commodities regarded as non-essential. The following BN chapters are affected by the arrangements:

2-5, 7-9, 16-22, 24, 33/34, 36, 41-46, 48, 50-58, 60-67, 69, 71/72, 83-85, 91, 93-96, 98, 99

Details are available. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Australia

Blades for safety razors: Tariff Board Report rejected
The Australian Minister for Customs and Excise has decided that a dumping duty on imported razor blades, as recommended by the Tariff Board, is completely unjustified, since it would constitute an unwarranted burden on the Australian consumer. Ref. CRE 1080/73.
CRE ext. 5318/5319

Passenger motor vehicles: Industries Assistance Commission inquiry result
A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 6 September 1973, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on passenger motor vehicles. The Commission's report was published on the 11 July, recommending an increase in the current rate of duty until 1980, and then a gradual reduction. Further details will be published when the Australian Government announces its decision on the report. Ref. CRE 1092/73. **EDB ext. 468/469/401**

Canada

Customs Tariff Act: new consolidation
With the implementation of the Generalised System of Tariff Preferences (GSP) which came into effect on 1 July 1974, the Canadian Department of Revenue has issued a new office consolidation of the Customs Tariff Act. The new tariff now has four columns ie British preferential tariff, most favoured nation tariff, general tariff, and general preferential tariff. The introduction of the GSP tariff is part of the international effort to help lesser developed countries improve their exports of manufactured and semi-manufactured industrial products to world markets. Most other developed countries have already implemented similar measures. Under the scheme, products from designated beneficiary countries will be subject to the lower of the British preferential tariff or the most favoured nation tariff less one third; as shown in the General Preferential Tariff column. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

United States

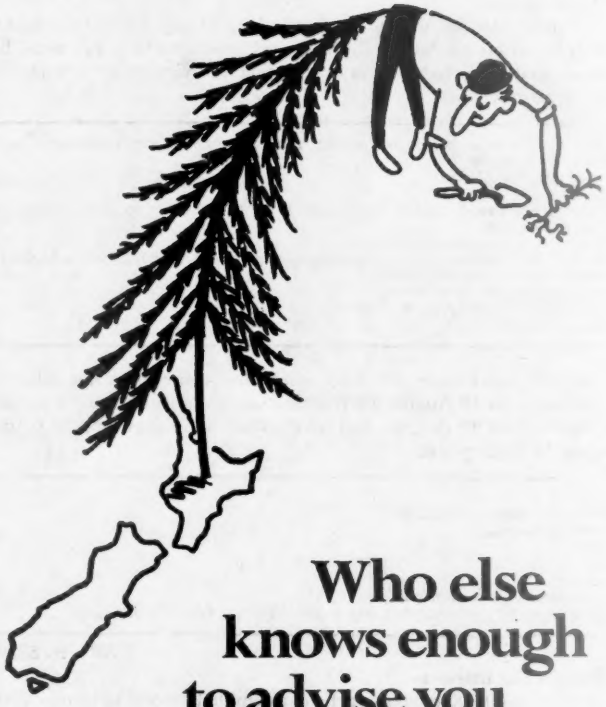
Consumer Product Safety Commission
The Commission has announced that rules for the development of mandatory safety standards have been finalised.

Under Section 7 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, which provides for development of standards by outside bodies and full consumer participation at each step, the Commission must publish a notice inviting parties to submit within 30 days, either an existing standard for amendment or an offer to develop a standard.

By law the Commission must accept an offer from one or more qualified parties, unless an existing standard is involved. If there are no qualified offerors, or the only offeror is a manufacturer, distributor or retailer of the product involved, then the Commission may write its own standard.

Although the US Congress specified that standards should be written within 150 days of first publication, the Commission can change this time limit if appropriate. At the Commission's discretion financial help can be given towards the cost of developing a standard.

One of the first standards to be issued by the Commission is for the flammability of children's nightwear, sizes 7-14. This standard will



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take effect from 1 May 1975. Standards which will be issued shortly include architectural glass, swimming pool slides, power lawn mowers, extension cords and matches. **CRE ext. 5397**

Tariff study
Two further draft schedules have been released by the US Tariff Commission as part of the study on conversion to the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature.

Public hearings on the draft schedule for the following subjects will begin on 12 August in New York; requests to testify must be submitted by 5 August, and information and views may be made to 11 September:

Inorganic chemicals, compounds of precious metals, rare earth metals, isotopes
Organic chemicals
Pharmaceutical products
Fertilisers
Tanning and dyeing extracts, dyes, colours, paints and varnishes, putty, fillers and stoppings, inks
Essential oils and resinoids, cosmetics
Soap, organic surface-active agents, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, candles
Albuminoidal substances, glues
Miscellaneous chemical products
Artificial resins and plastic materials
Rubber, synthetic rubber

Public hearings on the draft schedule for the following subjects will begin on 19 August, in Washington; requests to testify must be submitted by 12 August, and information and views may be made up to 18 September:

Silk
Man-made fibres (continuous)
Metalised textiles
Wool
Flax
Cotton
Man-made fibres (discontinuous)
Other vegetable textile materials, paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn

CRE ext. 5629

Section 807 imports
Tariff item 807.00 relates to articles assembled abroad in whole or in part from components manufactured in the United States. The Department of Treasury has now issued proposals to amend Section 10.2 of the Customs Regulations which concerns the documents required upon entry for articles claimed to be entitled to the partial exemption from duty provided by item 807.00.

The proposed amendments to the regulations include certain changes in the format of the foreign assemblers declaration and the endorsement of the owner, importer, consignee, or agent. They also deal with the late filing of free entry documents. Full details are available and comments should be made not later than 3 September. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

Wine and malt beverages: draft labelling regulations
Trade and Industry, 23 May 1974, announced that draft regulations had been issued by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for the disclosure on the label of all ingredients used in the production of wine and malt beverages. Hearings on these proposed regulations will be held on 1 October; the latest date for written submission is 24 September. **CRE ext. 5397**

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
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EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
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Registered trade marks

The lists of Tariff, Customs and Import Regulations changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Bicycle safety standards
The US Consumer Product Safety Commission published the regulations for bicycle safety standards and proposed labelling requirements on 16 July. These regulations will take effect on 1 January 1975. The labelling requirements specify that all bicycles offered for sale in the United States after 1 January 1975 until 31 December 1976 should be labelled 'Meets US Consumer Product Safety Commission Regulations for Bicycles'. Each label should be at least 2½ in. by 7 in. and the statement made in capital letters at least ¼ in. high. No other words or symbols may appear on the label. Unassembled bicycles should have the carton similarly marked in capital letters at least ½ in. high.

Interested parties are requested to submit evidence or comments to the Commission by 15 August 1974. **CRE ext. 5397**

Chile

Iron and steel: import duty temporarily suspended
Chilean Decree No. 943 temporarily suspends the import duty on the following items until 31 December 1974:

73.01	
73.06	
73.07	
73.09	
73.10	
73.11	
73.12.01.00	Hot-rolled, neither coated nor worked
73.12.02.00	Cold-rolled, neither coated nor worked
73.13.02.00	Simply hot-rolled, whether or not pickled
73.13.03.00	Simply cold-rolled, whether or not pickled
73.13.04.00	Tin plated, including tinplate
73.13.05.00	Zinc plated (galvanised) flat or corrugated
73.13.07.00	Surface worked
73.15	Only certain sub-parts are exempted from duty: details available from OTAR section, EDB

EDB ext. 474/476

Exchange rates
The changes in exchange rates announced by the Chilean Central Bank to take effect on 12 July 1974 are as follows:

'Bank' rate raised from 750 escudos to 800 escudos per US dollar.

'Brokers' rate raised from 825 escudos to 880 escudos per US dollar.

From 8 July 1974 the exchange rate covering the conversion of export earnings from unprocessed copper has increased from 330 escudos to 550 escudos per US dollar. **CRE ext. 5289**

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9,223	2,129	2,087	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1969	99	98	98	93	92	416	320	42	13	445	−143	588
1970	100	100	100	100	100	257	175	68	38	692	−9	701
1971	101	103	100	92	101	−7	−218	52	21	1,073	285	788
1972	104	109	102	83	111	−394	−498	28	22	114	−677	791
1973	109	114	107	89	116	627	433	38	227	−1,286	−2,375	1,089
1971 3rd qtr.	102	104	101	92	105	−18	67	9	15	380	172	208
4th qtr.	102	105	101	88	102	—	−47	3	21	248	60	188
1972 1st qtr.	101	106	103	88	105	−131	−156	15	−9	71	−121	192
2nd qtr.	104	108	102	84	110	−100	−145	−12	40	112	−64	176
3rd qtr.	104	110	102	81	110	−83	−125	4	−8	−116	−284	163
4th qtr.	106	111	102	81	118	−80	−72	22	−1	+2	−208	210
1973 1st qtr.	109	115	109	88	123	242	168	18	31	−146	−351	205
2nd qtr.	109	113	102	84	107	188	66	−16	154	−188	−399	211
3rd qtr.	110	114	109	91	116	102	46	18	22	−291	−606	315
4th qtr.	109	114	108	93	120	95	99	18	20	−661	−1,019	358
1974 1st qtr.	106	112	109	99	110	−265	−105	2	−64	−979	−1,288	309
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−1.7	+0.1	+2.6	+9.2	+3.1							
on a year earlier	N/C	+3.0	+2.6	+13.0	−4.6							

	Index of industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
			monthly averages										monthly averages	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan 16, 1962		1970	1970	July 31, 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1970	100.0	100.0	99.0	91.4	140.2	6.4	100.0	100.0	78.5	568	2.5	186	658	659
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	733	709
1972	102.4	102.0	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	761	818
1973	109.8	110.3	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.1	123.2*	115.5	581	2.6	304	953	1,151
1972 3rd qtr.	103.0	102.4	107.2	139	165.4	6.5	109.4	115.6	102.2	808	3.6	147	684	779
4th qtr.	105.9	105.7	109.5	144	169.4	7.7	115.6	118.0	107.8	750	3.3	179	871	940
1973 1st qtr.	110.4	110.7	111.8	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.8	667	2.9	228	878	995
2nd qtr.	109.4	109.4	108.0	136	177.9	9.3	133.4	120.1*	112.6	605	2.6	289	931	1,064
3rd qtr.	110.3	110.9	110.5	143	180.2	9.2	150.5	124.2	118.4	562	2.5	334	995	1,197
4th qtr.	109.2	110.3	112.3	119	186.8	10.3	167.2	129.1	120.9	489	2.2	364	1,008	1,348
1974 1st qtr.	103.0	105.3	110.1	103	101.4†	12.9	206.4	138.4	124.9	543	2.4	285	1,124	1,557
2nd qtr.			107.1	104	107.5	15.8	209.2 p	148.6 p	130.8	552	2.4	309	1,292	1,748
1973 June	110.1	111.1	110.1	135	178 9	9.3	137.2	121.3	115.6	593	2.6	304	960	1,198
July	110.4	110.7	110.6	147	179.7	9.4	145.1	122.7	116.0	581	2.6	324	961	1,145
Aug.	109.7	110.4	110.8	153	180.2	8.9	152.4	124.1	119.7	563	2.5	330	980	1,206
Sept.	110.8	111.6	110.2	129	181.8	9.3	154.1	125.8	120.0	542	2.4	349	1,043	1,239
Oct.	111.3	112.0	111.7	127	185.4	9.9	161.4	127.7	120.3	512	2.3	363	982	1,385
Nov.	110.1	111.8	112.3	126	186.8	10.3	165.5	129.0	121.0	486	2.2	368	1,022	1,304
Dec.	106 3	107.1	112.9	103	188.2	10.6	174.8	130.6	122.0	470	2.1	362	1,019	1,354
1974 Jan.	100.0	100.8	109.5	93	191.8	12.0	203.0	134.1	123.7	535	2.4	304	1,012	1,396
Feb.	102.9	106.8	110.3	109	101.7†	13.2	207.0	138.5	124.7	549	2.4	278	1,153	1,597
Mar.	106.1	108.3	110.4	106	102.6	13.5	209.1	142.2	126.4	545	2.4	274	1,208	1,678
Apr.	108.4	109.9	107.9	96	106.1	15.2	209.9	146.3	127.0	546	2.4	297	1,254	1,672
May	108.6	108.7	105.4	105	107.6	15.9	210.0 p	148.8 p	130.7	548	2.4	314	1,278 p	1,759 p
June			108.0 p	111	108.7	16.5	207.8 p	150.7 p	134.6	561	2.5	317	1,345 p	1,813 p
July										582 p	2.6 p	317		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+4.5	+3.9	−2.7	+ 1.3	+5.9		+1.3	+7.4	+4.2	+3.1		+11.8	+14.9	+12.3
on a year earlier	−2.3	−0.9	−0.7	−23.3	+15.9		+56.8	+23.7	+14.8	−4.9		+3.2	+38.8	+64.3

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT. † Base of index Jan 1974 = 100.

Concentration in UK manufacturing industry

by David Elliott, Senior Economic Assistant, Office of Fair Trading

The enterprise volume (Part 158) of the 1968 Census of Production Report has recently been published (July 1974, HMSO). It contains two items of particular relevance to the structure of UK industry: the five-firm concentration ratios for selected products and the size distributions of enterprises for each Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Order and each census industry. This article is primarily concerned with some of the more simple calculations and groupings which are possible using the data on concentration ratios, and while it refers to the period 1958-68, the information does provide an authoritative basis from which the changing structure of UK manufacturing industry can be examined.

The concentration data given is the percentage share of the total product group sales accounted for by the five largest supplying firms and relates to returns received from establishments employing 25 or more persons, covering a year ending on any date from 6 April 1968 to 5 April 1969. In a small number of cases the share of more than five firms is given to avoid disclosure problems. The product groupings are those adopted by the Business Statistics Office for the purpose of aggregation, and in some cases may be broader than a market definition. This arises from the tendency of the census to define industries and product groups in terms of 'substitutability' in production rather than in consumption.

The present list covers some 340 such product groups, 307 of them being approximately comparable with the 1963 Census and 166 with both the 1963 and 1958 Censuses. The ratios are not strictly comparable over the three censuses for many products, owing to changes in definition of the SIC and other data revisions. In order to include as many of these as possible, a comparable product was defined as one for which the 1963 total sales figure shown in the 1963 Census Report differed from the 1963 figure, as given in the 1968 Census Report by less than 7 per cent.

The full list of 340 products cover some 76 per cent of sales of goods produced and work done from manufacturing industries (summary volume Table 1 figures have been used to calculate total sales and work done of manufacturing industry with an estimated proportional deduction for small firms). Coverage, however, cannot be complete for the following main reasons:

a. The Business Statistics Office is bound by disclosure rules and does not publish product groups where individual firms may be identified.

b. Product groups where total sales are less than £10-million are not generally shown.

c. No product groups have been selected covering work done activities.

d. Products that cannot be identified as a homogenous entity have been omitted.

Deletions for these reasons result in the BSO list of 340 from which a further 12 have been deleted to exclude the effects of nationalisation in the steel industry, thereby leaving 295 and 157 products comparable over the periods 1963-68 and 1958-68 respectively. (A few products for which the concentration ratio is based on more than five firms were also included.)

On the basis of these two comparable sets the average levels of concentration for the census years can be calculated from the averages of the individual product groups as follows:

The comparisons show a steady increase of concentration over the two periods, and confirm academic estimates that this was happening (for example, Hart, Utton and Walshe (1973)* established that the average level of industrial concentration continued to rise over the period 1949-63). While the 10-year comparison is based on fewer products than the five-year one, and therefore may not be as precise, it does strongly suggest that the rate of increase accelerated between 1963 and 1968.

A breakdown of these averages into the broadly defined industry groups given by the main manufacturing Orders of the Standard Industrial Classification is given in Table 2. As the measure of concentration is the average of the five-firm ratios for the products within a particular Order on which Census information is given, it does not therefore represent the share of the largest five firms in the census industry. The last column of Table 2 is the coverage of the data and measures the percentage of sales of all the principal products for which concentration data is available and gives a guide to the extent which the data may represent the average levels of concentration in the particular main SIC Orders.

It should be noted that the concentration ratios given in the Census, and the groupings in Table 2 are probably imperfect measures, since the impact of foreign trade cannot be accurately assessed except in detailed studies of narrowly defined markets, and this

TABLE 1 Average of five—Firm concentration ratios 1958-1968

1963 and 1968: 295 products		1958 and 1968: 157 products	
Average	Change	Average	Change
1963 = 62.0% 1968 = 66.0%	+4.0%	1958 = 56.2% 1963 = 59.4% 1968 = 64.5%	+3.2% +5.1%

TABLE 2 Average of five-firm sales concentration ratios of products comprising Order per cent

SIC order	Description	Number of products for which ratios available	1968 sales (£m) of products for which ratios available	Average concentration ratio (%) 1963	1968	Change	Coverage of ratios for each order (%)
II	Mining and quarrying	5	136.8	57.4	65.0	+7.6	15
III	Food manufactured including tea and coffee	33	2,420.1	78.1	78.9	+0.8	85
	Beer, spirits etc.	6	1,193.7	74.4	77.1	+2.7	98
	Cigarettes, tobacco products	3	1,393.0	99.2	99.4	+0.2	100
IV	Coal and petroleum products	8	1,010.5	91.5	93.5	+2.0	87
V	Chemical and allied industries	39	1,952.4	74.0	75.5	+1.5	78
VI	Metal manufacture	8	975.8	72.9	74.3	+1.4	31
VI	Metal manufacture (including steel)	20	2,831.0	70.6	79.8	+9.2	93
VII	Mechanical engineering	35	1,521.7	60.3	62.4	+2.1	64
VIII	Instrument engineering	5	109.5	60.1	62.3	+2.2	82
IX	Electrical engineering	27	1,546.0	68.1	77.2	+9.1	80
X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	1	60.1	34.6	57.4	+22.8	14
XI	Vehicles	8	1,724.0	85.2	89.1	+3.9	57
XII	Metal goods nes	21	1,301.0	55.0	57.6	+2.6	76
XIII	Textiles	28	2,040.8	41.5	49.7	+8.2	72
XIV	Leather, leathergoods, fur	5	139.0	33.8	37.7	+3.9	90
XV	Clothing and footwear	14	792.1	30.1	37.0	+6.9	91
XVI	Bricks, pottery, glass, cement etc.	16	662.1	65.6	75.5	+9.9	82
XVII	Timber, furniture etc.	9	543.5	28.0	28.4	+0.4	67
XVIII	Paper, printing and publishing	10	970.3	54.5	56.2	+1.7	54
XIX	Other manufacturing industries	14	674.7	53.5	57.0	+3.5	68
	Total (excluding steel products)	295	21,167.3				

should be borne in mind in interpreting the data. Notwithstanding this reservation, it is clear that the level of concentration in many Orders has increased significantly. Due to the low coverage no interpretation is offered for the figures in Orders X and II, but excluding these, all the main Orders increased in concentration, and greater than average changes occurred in: electrical engineering, textiles, clothing and footwear, bricks and pottery and glass.

The electrical engineering, textiles and clothing industries also exhibited a relatively high rate of takeover activity during the period 1963-68. Table 3 shows the change in concentration between these periods and the average (1964-68) level of funds in quoted companies devoted to the acquisition of subsidiaries as a percentage of total funds available for certain broad industrial groups, the latter being governed by the groupings used in Business Monitor M3, the source of the use of funds data.

After allowing for the low coverage for some industrial groups and the effect of nationalisation of steel on the change in concentration in metal manufacturing there is a tendency for those industries with the highest (lowest) percentage level of funds devoted to acquisition to be associated with the highest (lowest) changes in concentration; and this lends support to the hypothesis that the increase in industrial concentration in the UK has been due, in some part, to the higher levels of merger activity experienced in the 1960s.

TABLE 3 Concentration change and uses of company funds

Industrial group	Change in concentration 1963-68	Average (1964-68) % of funds used for acquisition of subsidiaries
Food	0.8	12.6
Drink	2.7	17.8
Tobacco	0.2	8.5
Chemical and allied industries	1.6	7.2
Metal manufacture	9.2	8.5
Non-electrical engineering	2.1	9.4
Electrical engineering	9.1	34.7
Shipbuilding and marine	22.8	13.0
Vehicles	3.9	13.5
Metal goods nes	2.6	6.8
Textiles	8.2	23.0
Leather, leather goods and fur	3.9	1.7
Clothing and footwear	6.9	20.8
Bricks, pottery, glass etc	9.9	16.4
Timber, furniture	0.4	5.6
Paper, printing and publishing	1.7	14.0
Other manufacturing	3.5	7.3

TABLE 4 Frequency distribution of concentration ratios

Size class of ratio	Number (and %) of product in each class				
	1958	1963	1968	1963	1968
0– 19.9	12 (7.6)	8 (5.1)	3 (1.9)	13 (4.4)	7 (2.4)
20– 29.9	23 (14.6)	19 (12.1)	12 (7.6)	27 (9.1)	18 (6.1)
30– 39.9	21 (13.4)	20 (12.7)	17 (10.8)	34 (11.5)	24 (8.1)
40– 49.9	10 (6.4)	13 (8.3)	14 (8.9)	24 (8.1)	28 (9.5)
50– 59.9	16 (10.2)	16 (10.2)	23 (14.6)	36 (12 2)	45 (15.3)
60– 69.9	18 (11.5)	19 (12.1)	12 (7.6)	37 (12.5)	31 (10.5)
70– 79.9	20 (12.7)	19 (12 1)	20 (12.7)	39 (13.2)	35 (11.9)
80– 89.9	15 (9.5)	18 (11.5)	22 (14.0)	29 (9.8)	42 (14.2)
90–100	22 (14.0)	25 (15.9)	34 (21.6)	56 (19.0)	65 (22.0)
Totals	157	157	157	295	295

The data in Table 4, for the two comparable sets of concentration ratios give a further insight into the changing pattern of industrial concentration. They have been grouped into classes and the table shows the frequency of occurrence within each class. Both sets show a substantial increase in the number of products in the 80-100 grouping. Detailed analysis of the 39 in the 70-79.9 class for 1963 (right hand portion of table) shows that of these only five fell from the class whereas 19 rose. Similarly, for the 29 in the 80-89.9 class, ten rose while only four fell. This maintenance and reinforcement of the relative position of the highly concentrated products has some possible implications for the future structure of UK manufacturing industry. On the assumption that the rate of growth of concentration, and its pattern from 1958-68 would remain unchanged into the future, then a simple projection would show that over two-thirds of products would have concentration ratios between 80 and 100 per cent by 1993.

As other factors may cause concentration to decrease or its rate of growth to slow down these figures are only the consequence of projecting the present trend and are not a forecast of the future course of concentration change up to 1993.

The upward trend in concentration at the industry level has been accompanied by a comparative rise in the level of overall concentration. The most recent data† are those prepared by Dr. S. J. Prais (1974) from the Census of Production and other official statistics. These show the growth in the share of manufacturing net output produced by the 100 largest firms, and are shown in Table 5. Thus at both the industrial level and on an overall basis concentration has been rising throughout the period 1958-68.

* Hart, P. E., Utton, M.A. and Walshe, G.—*Mergers and Concentration in British Industry*, Cambridge University Press, 1973.

† Prais, S. J.—*A New Look At Concentration*, Oxford Economic Papers, July 1974.

TABLE 5 Overall concentration share of manufacturing net output by the largest 100 firms per cent

Year	Per cent
1958	31
1963	37
1968	42
1970	45

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	⊕ fifty-three week
p provisional	period

New companies incorporated in Northern Ireland during June

During June, 41 private companies with a total nominal capital of £653,500 were incorporated in Northern Ireland.

During the period January-June, 320 companies with a total nominal capital £4,714,650 were incorporated, as compared with 353 companies with a total nominal capital of just over £1,707,000 incorporated in the same period in 1973.

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Overseas transactions in 1973. Film and television material

This article presents the results of the Department of Industry's annual inquiry into overseas transactions relating to the production and exhibition of cinematograph films and television material in 1973. The scope and coverage of the inquiry were identical with those of previous inquiries in the series, the last of which was reported on in *Trade and Industry* on 9 August 1973.

Summary of results

Table 1 shows the overseas expenditure and receipts of film and television companies in respect of the production and exhibition of cinematograph films and television material over the period 1963 to 1973. Total expenditure overseas rose by £1 million between 1972 and 1973, a fall in expenditure by film companies being more than offset by a rise in that of television companies. At £26 million, total expenditure in 1973 was at its highest level since 1969, though still somewhat below the level of £32 million in that year.

There was a fall in total receipts from overseas between 1972 and 1973 of just over £4½ million, a smaller drop than that between 1971 and 1972, which was just over £7 million. At just under £33 million, receipts were only slightly higher than in 1970. Receipts of television companies rose by £1 million between 1972 and 1973, but those of film companies fell over £5½ million to under £23 million, the lowest figure recorded since 1964, when receipts totalled some £20½ million.

Receipts net of expenditure in 1973, at just under £7 million, were some £5½ million lower than in 1972 and this balance of receipts over expenditure was the smallest in any year since 1965. Because of some difference in coverage between these statistics and those for imports and exports of exposed cinematograph film in the Overseas Trade Statistics (see Notes and Definitions) the net surplus of these transactions in the balance of payments is put at £6 million in 1973, compared with £11 million in 1972.

Cinematograph film producers and distributors

Table 2 gives the geographical breakdown of payments and receipts in respect of the production and distribution of cinematograph films between 1969 and 1973. In 1973 figures for transactions with the EEC were collected separately for the first time. Prior to 1973, figures for the Continental EEC countries were included in Other Western Europe, and those for the Irish Republic in the Overseas Sterling Area totals. Expenditure in EEC countries in 1973 accounted for nearly 10 per cent of total expenditure whilst receipts from the EEC accounted for nearly 15 per cent of total receipts. On balance, receipts from the EEC exceeded expenditure by just over £1½ million.

Both payments to and receipts from North America fell between 1972 and 1973, expenditure falling by just over £1½ to £13½ million, the lowest level since 1970, and receipts by nearly £6 million to about £11½ million, the lowest level since 1963. The very much larger drop in receipts than expenditure resulted in a balance of expenditure over receipts, the first year since 1961 that receipts from North America have not exceeded payments there.

Table 3 gives the area breakdown of expenditure and receipts between those associated with performances and those associated with production for the years 1972 and 1973. The fall in total expenditure between 1972 and 1973 was more than accounted for by a fall in expenditure on performances of nearly £2½ million, there being a rise of between £½ million and £1 million in that on production. Within performance expenditure, that in North America fell by nearly £3 million between 1972 and 1973 to about £12 million, and that in Western Europe also fell. These falls were partly offset by a rise in performance expenditure in the overseas sterling area of nearly £1½ million to between £1½ million and £2 million, a level some six times higher than in any year previously.

Performance receipts rose by over £3½ million between 1972 and 1973 to nearly £14 million, with those from North America trebling to over £6½ million. On the other hand production receipts in 1973, at just over £9 million, were only a half of the 1972 total, and just over a quarter of the level in 1968. The fall in those receipts was more than accounted for by a fall of over £10 million in receipts from North America to under £5 million, a level one-sixth of that in 1968.

The fall in production receipts can be seen in Table 4 to be due entirely to transactions of UK subsidiaries of major US film companies, there being no change in the production receipts of other companies. This drop reflects a continuation of a move by the US majors over the past few years to cut down on their production expenditure overseas. At just under £5 million the production receipts of UK subsi-

TABLE 2 Overseas transactions in respect of cinematograph films (b) analysis by area

£ million

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Expenditure (b):					
Overseas Sterling Area (e)	2.4	0.7	0.5	0.9	2.1
European Economic Community (f)					1.7
Other Western Europe (g)	6.8	3.4	2.0	3.7	0.7
North America	17.5	11.1	16.4	15.2	13.5
Other Non Sterling Area	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3
Total	26.8	15.3	19.4	20.0	18.3
Receipts (c):					
Overseas Sterling Area (e)	2.5	3.4	5.8	5.3	4.0
European Economic Community (f)					3.3
Other Western Europe (g)	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0	1.6
North America	29.7	18.0	22.9	17.3	11.4
Other Non Sterling Area	4.5	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.5
Total	40.7	26.7	34.0	28.4	22.8
Of which receipts in respect of rights restricted to television	2.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.8

(a) (b) (d) see Table 1.
(e) Excludes in 1973 transactions with Irish Republic.
(f) Prior to 1973 included in Other Western Europe. Includes transactions with Irish Republic.
(g) Including continental ECC countries prior to 1973.

TABLE 1 Overseas transactions in respect of film and television material

£ million

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Expenditure (a):											
Film companies (b)	11.7	12.7	21.2	23.8	21.2	21.4	26.8	15.3	19.4	20.0	18.3
Television companies (c)	2.2	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.5	4.1	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.0	7.7
Total	13.9	16.0	24.3	27.3	24.7	25.5	32.0	20.1	24.3	25.0	26.0
Receipts (d)											
Film companies (b)	16.5	20.3	27.5	32.5	45.3	44.5	40.7	26.7	34.0	28.4	22.8
Television companies (c)	1.6	2.0	3.3	5.0	6.2	5.1	6.9	5.7	10.6	9.1	10.1
Total	18.1	22.3	30.8	37.5	51.5	49.6	47.6	32.4	44.6	37.5	32.9
Receipts less expenditure											
Film companies (b)	4.8	7.6	6.3	8.7	24.1	23.1	13.9	11.4	14.6	8.4	4.5
Television companies (c)	−0.6	−1.3	0.2	1.5	2.7	1.0	1.7	0.9	5.7	4.1	2.4
Total	4.2	6.3	6.5	10.2	26.8	24.1	15.6	12.3	20.3	12.5	6.9

(a) Sums payable to overseas residents.
(b) Includes transactions by film companies in respect of rights restricted to television from 1965 onwards.
(c) Includes transactions in respect of BBC sound broadcasting and Independant Television News.
(d) Sums receivable from overseas residents.

diaries of the US majors were less than one-sixth of the level for 1969, when such receipt totalled over £31 million, and the fall of over £9 million in such receipts between 1972 and 1973 was bigger than that between any year since 1969, the year after which the level began to drop.

The transactions of the UK subsidiaries of the US majors also tended to dominate the changes in other receipts and expenditure between 1972 and 1973. Of the £3½ million rise in performance receipts, these companies accounted for nearly £2½ million, and their receipts, at nearly £6½ million, were higher than in any year since 1967. The fall in performance expenditure of these companies of nearly £4 million was offset to some extent by a rise of £1½ million in that of other companies, whilst the rise in production expenditure was entirely due to these companies, there being a very small reduction in that of other companies.

Whilst the transactions of the UK subsidiaries of the US majors were a dominant feature of the changes in the figures between 1972 and 1973, the importance of these companies in relation to total expenditure and receipts declined in 1973. Having accounted for about 80 per cent of total expenditure and two-thirds of total receipts over the past few years, their contribution to total expenditure in 1973 was 70 per cent, and they accounted for only a half of total receipts.

Television

A summary of the overseas transactions of the BBC and ITA programme contractors between 1969 and 1973 is given in Table 5. Expenditure overseas rose by over £2½ million between 1972 and 1973, having remained steady at about £5 million between 1969 and 1972. Receipts from overseas rose by £1 million between 1972 and 1973, after dropping back between 1971 and 1972. The balance of receipts over payments, at about £2½ million, was some £1½ million lower than in 1972.

Table 6 gives the area breakdown of expenditure and receipts for 1972 and 1973. As with transactions in respect of cinematograph films, separate figures of these transactions with EEC were collected for the first time in 1973. Expenditure in the EEC, at £2 million, represented over a quarter of total expenditure, whilst receipts from the EEC, at between £1½ million and £2 million, accounted for about one-sixth of total receipts. The rise in expenditure between 1972 and 1973 was accounted for by rises in North America and in Western Europe, including the EEC, in each of which expenditure rose by about £1½ million. Similarly the rise in receipts was accounted for by rises in these same areas with receipts from North America accounting for the two-thirds of the rise. North America remained the most important area for television transactions, accounting for over half of expenditure and receipts in 1973.

Notes and definitions

The statistics cover the value of transactions between the United Kingdom and overseas residents in respect of the production, sales of rights and rentals of films of any width, and recordings on tape or other media, including overseas transactions on behalf of another producer, distributor or agent in the United Kingdom.

They do not cover all the film companies' overseas transactions which affect the United Kingdom balance of payments since they do not include profits or capital transactions (except the provision of production finance). Transactions relating to the Army Kinema Corporation are excluded throughout. The basis of the register of the inquiry was described in detail in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 6 January 1967. This register is brought up to date annually by using a list of producers and distributors who registered British films with the Department of Trade and Industry. Returns were received from 188 film companies, of which 47 reported no overseas transactions. Firms were asked to report figures for the calendar year 1973 where possible, although some firms provided figures for their nearest accounting year. Five firms reported for an accounting year ending before 31 December 1973, and three companies for an accounting year ending after December 1973.

Firms were asked to return amounts against the geographical areas to which they were payable or from which they were receivable, irrespective of where they might first have been earned.

TABLE 3 Overseas transactions in respect of cinematograph films (b): analysis by area and type of transaction:

£ million

	1972					1973					
	Total	Overseas sterling area	Western Europe (g)	North America	Other non-sterling area	Total	Overseas sterling area (e)	European Economic Community (f)	Other Western Europe	North America	Other non-sterling area
Expenditure (a)											
(i) Performances in cinemas or on television	18.1	0.3	3.1	14.7	—	15.7	1.7	1.3	0.7	11.9	0.1
(ii) Production of films etc.	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.2	2.6	0.4	0.4	—	1.6	0.2
Total	20.0	0.9	3.7	15.2	0.2	18.3	2.1	1.7	0.7	13.5	0.3
Receipts (d)											
(i) Performances in cinemas or on television	10.1	4.5	2.5	2.2	0.9	13.7	3.2	2.1	1.0	6.6	0.8
(ii) Production of films etc.	18.3	0.8	1.5	15.1	0.9	9.1	0.8	1.2	0.6	4.8	1.7
Total	28.4	5.3	4.0	17.3	1.8	22.8	4.0	3.3	1.6	11.4	2.5

Notes: See Tables 1, 2.

TABLE 4 Overseas transactions in respect of cinematograph films (b), analysis by type of transaction and category of company:

£ million

	1972			1973		
	All firms	United Kingdom subsidiaries of the major United States film companies	Other firms	All firms	United Kingdom subsidiaries of the major United States film companies	Other firms
Expenditure (a)						
(i) Performances in cinemas or on television	18.1	15.7	2.4	15.7	11.8	3.9
(ii) Production of films etc.	1.9	0.2	1.7	2.6	1.0	1.6
Total payable	20.0	15.9	4.1	18.3	12.8	5.5
Receipts: (d)						
(i) Performances in cinemas or on television	10.1	4.1	6.0	13.7	6.4	7.3
(ii) Production of films etc.	18.3	14.0	4.3	9.1	4.8	4.3
Total receivable	28.4	18.1	10.3	22.8	11.2	11.6

Notes: See Table 1.

Transactions with overseas branches and with companies registered abroad were included, as were debits to and credits from non-resident accounts. Receipts for production in the United Kingdom comprised amounts remitted from overseas or put up from amounts held in the United Kingdom on behalf of overseas residents, and sums applied to the repayment of loans raised in the United Kingdom. Amounts for film production, including work on location abroad remitted from the United Kingdom or put up from amounts held overseas on behalf of United Kingdom residents, were included as debits.

Firms were asked to state separately the amounts receivable in respect of rights relating solely to television (see Table 1); the corresponding payments for foreign films for television showing are thought to be small. There is some difference in coverage between these statistics and those for imports and exports of exposed cinematograph film in the Overseas Trade Accounts. The import and export figures for 1973, £5.5 and £10.1 million respectively, however, include a number of items not covered by the inquiry; for example, film flown in from units on location abroad for processing and immediate return to the unit abroad, and film imported and prints exported after processing by specialist film processing laboratories to the order of overseas customers. It is not possible to give an exact indication of the extent of the difference, but it is probably of the order of half the export figure in the Overseas Trade Account and a rather higher proportion of the import figure.

TABLE 5 Overseas transactions of the BBC and ITA programme contractors (c) £ million

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
Expenditure (a)	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.0	7.7
Receipt (d)	6.9	5.7	10.6	9.1	10.1

Note: See Table 1.

General

The tables give the information in as much detail as is practicable without disclosing the affairs of individual firms.

In the tables:

– means nil or negligible, ie less than half the final digit shown.

.. means 'not available'.

TABLE 6 Overseas transactions of the BBC and ITA programme contractors (c) analysis by area £ million

	1972					1973					
	Total	Overseas sterling area	Western Europe	North America	Other non-sterling area	Total	Overseas sterling area (e)	European Economic Community (f)	Other Western Europe	North America	Other non-sterling area
Expenditure: (a)	5.0	0.3	1.6	2.9	0.2	7.7	0.3	2.0	0.9	4.2	0.3
Receipts: (d)	9.1	1.8	2.0	5.0	0.3	10.1	1.7	1.7	0.6	5.7	0.4

Notes: See Tables 1 and 2.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 26 July 1974.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Black Windmill	BR/E 37630/28/7/79	106	22 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures
Of Jewels And Gold	BR/E 37634/28/7/79	19	24 July	Nationwide Film Distributors Ltd.	Athos-Gazelle Film Productions Ltd.
Thunder Of Silence	BR/E 37638/28/7/79	28	24 July	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	John Turner Enterprises Ltd.
Movietone News 2355	BR/E 37556/28/7/79	8	26 July	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2355A	BR/E 37557/28/7/79	7	26 July	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Valdez The Halfbreed	EC 37636/28/7/79	96	24 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Produzioni de Laurentiis Inter. MA. Co., Rome
Come As You Are	EC 37637/28/7/79	8	24 July	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Alliance Générale Cinematographique-La Garenne-Colombes, Paris
When Love Is Lust	EC 37639/28/7/79	92	24 July	Gemini Films	TRAC Srl, Rome
Hot And Sexy	EC 37640/28/7/79	72	24 July	Gemini Films	City-Film GmbH, Berlin
			FOREIGN		
Gallery Of Horrors	F 37631	83	23 July	Ember Film Distributors Ltd.	American General Pictures
For Pete's Sake	F 37632	90	24 July	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Raystar Productions Inc.
Dirty Money	F 37633	98	24 July	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Films Corona, Paris
W	F 37635	100	24 July	Nationwide Film Distributors Ltd.	Bing Crosby Productions Inc.
Circle Of Light	F 37641	28	25 July	Connoisseur Films Ltd.	Anthony Rowland Films

NOTE:
In the list of films registered during the week ended Friday, 12 July 1974, the registration number of the film 'Horizon' should have read F 37614.

Amendments to the register:
On 22 July 1974 the following amendments were made to the register:
The registration number of the film 'This Tiny World' registered on 1 July 1974, was amended to EC 37602/7/7/79 and the name of maker corrected to Ch. Huguenot Van der Linden, Amsterdam.
The registration number of the film 'Devil's Garden' registered on 27 September 1971, was amended to EC 35716/2/10/76.
The registration number of the film 'The Amorous Adventures Of Uncle Benjamin', registered on 21 August 1972, was amended to EC 36366/27/8/77 and the name of maker corrected to Ste Nlle des Ets Gaumont, Paris and Euro International, Rome.
The registration number of the film 'Port Of Desire', registered on 16 February 1971, was amended to EC 35354/21/2/76.
The registration number of the film 'Ho! Criminal Face', registered on 14 June 1971, was amended to EC 35526/19/6/76.

United Kingdom overseas trade: Import and export unit value and volume indices and terms of trade for May

Balance of payments basis (Table 1)

The export unit value index, on a balance of payments basis, rose by nearly 2 per cent in May. The average for the three months ended May was 10 per cent above the average for the previous three months.

The import unit value index also rose by nearly 2 per cent in May while the average for the three months ended May was 16 per cent above that for the previous three months; excluding fuels, the figures for May show a rise of almost 3 per cent, while the three months comparison shows a rise of 8 per cent.

The terms of trade were unchanged in May; excluding fuels there was a fall of half a point.

Overseas Trade Statistics basis (Tables 2-4)

Export unit value index numbers

For the three months ended May, the export unit value index for non-manufactures was 14 per cent above the average for the three months ended February. For manufactured goods the increase over the same period was 9 per cent, with above average increases being recorded for chemicals, a rise of 18 per cent and metals, a rise of 11 per cent. The index for textiles rose by 9 per cent, while the index for machinery and transport equipment rose by 7½ per cent.

Import unit value index numbers

Within the 16 per cent rise in the total import unit value index for the three months ended May, compared with the previous three months, fuels rose by over 44 per cent. Rises recorded in the other broad groupings were of 5½ per cent for food, drink and tobacco, of 12½ per cent for basic materials and of 10 per cent for manufactured goods.

In May the index for fuels fell 1½ per cent, for the other broad groupings there were increases of 2 or 3 per cent.

Notes

1 The publication of these indices has been delayed (see *Trade and Industry* of 30 May 1974, page 465). June figures are expected to be released by 21 August and the July indices early in September.

2 Table 1 is on a balance of payments basis. Tables 2-4 are on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis. The adjustments which have to be made to the figures recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics to bring them to a balance of payments basis relate either to the coverage of the statistics or to the valuation of items which are recorded. The adjustments are described in detail in the annual Balance of Payments Pink Book. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971.

3 An article was published in the 11 October 1973 issue of *Trade and Industry* introducing a new series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100, superseding the series with 1961 = 100.

4 Industrial action at Heathrow during October 1973 affected the flow of some import documents. All indices for October 1973 and November 1973 have been adjusted to remove the distortion arising from the interruption to statistical processing in October. As a result the series in Tables 2 to 4 do not reflect the detailed figures contained in the October and November issues of the *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom.*

TABLE 1 Import and export unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis 1970 = 100

	Unit value Index Numbers (Unadjusted)			Volume Index Numbers (Seasonally adjusted)	
	Imports	Exports	Terms of Trade†	Imports	Exports
1971	104.3	105.6	101.2	104.2	106.7
1972	109.2	111.0	101.7	116.6	106.7
1973	139.1	125.5	90.3	131.8	119.2
1972 1st quarter	107.1	110.2	102.9	112.1	104.7
2nd quarter	107.6	110.7	103.0	114.3	109.0
3rd quarter	111.4	114.0	102.3	111.0	94.5
4th quarter	116.5	115.1	98.8	129.0	118.9
1973 1st quarter	123.2	119.2	96.7	129.2	116.9
2nd quarter	132.8	123.5	93.0	127.1	119.3
3rd quarter	146.4	128.5	87.8	133.4	121.5
4th quarter *	161.6	135.3	83.7	137.4	119.3
1974 1st quarter p	189.6	146.0	77.0	135.0	123.5
1973 January	120.5	117.1	97.2	126.3	119.1
February	123.2	119.4	96.9	126.1	118.0
March	125.9	120.9	96.0	135.2	113.7
April	130.2	122.1	93.8	116.4	121.8
May	132.9	123.6	93.0	135.0	115.5
June	135.2	124.9	92.4	129.9	120.5
July	140.7	126.6	89.9	134.1	119.7
August	146.2	128.3	87.8	134.9	121.1
September	152.2	130.7	85.9	131.2	123.6
October *	155.0	131.6	84.9	143.9	120.7
November *	160.2	135.1	84.3	134.1	122.4
December	169.6	139.2	82.1	134.2	114.7
1974 January p	176.7	141.3	80.0	130.8	114.8
February p	190.0	145.2	76.5	137.7	127.7
March p	202.2	151.3	74.8	136.6	128.1
April p	209.4	156.9	74.9	132.8	128.6
May p	213.1	159.8	75.0	132.8	127.4
Average three months ending					
February 1974	178.8	141.9	79.5	134.2	119.1
May 1974	208.2	156.0	74.9	134.1	128.0

Note: Figures are shown to one decimal place to assist users, but small month to month movements may have little signficance.
† Export Unit Value index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value index.
p Provisional estimates.
* See note (4) about imports through London Airport.

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TABLE 2 Import and export unit value index numbers (unadjusted) (Overseas trade statistics basis) 1970 = 100

	Imports					Exports							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactured goods	Total	Non-manufactures	Manufactured goods					
								Total	Chemicals	Textiles	Metals	Machinery and transport eqpt.	Other
Section or Division		0 and 1	2 and 4	3	5 to 8		0 to 4	5 to 8	5	65	67 to 69	7	
Weights	1,000	227	151	105	506	1,000	123	844	97	49	119	410	169
1971	104.6	107	102	122	101	105.6	107	105	102	102	99	110	102
1972	108.7	114	106	123	104	111.1	114	111	104	104	100	118	107
1973	137.8	150	141	164	126	125.5	139	124	114	123	115	128	125
1972 1st quarter	106.3	111	101	120	103	110.3	110	110	105	102	98	118	106
2nd quarter	107.4	112	104	120	104	110.8	112	111	104	104	100	119	104
3rd quarter •	110.8					114.1							
4th quarter	115.8	122	115	127	111	115.1	118	115	107	107	103	122	113
1973 1st quarter	122.2	132	124	136	115	119.1	127	118	109	112	108	124	118
2nd quarter	131.8	146	135	144	122	123.5	132	122	112	120	113	128	123
3rd quarter	144.6	159	147	162	134	128.4	141	127	115	126	120	131	130
4th quarter †	159.4	172	162	215	143	135.2	158	133	125	136	129	135	133
1974 1st quarter p	188.0	182	180	395	152	145.8	188	141	137	144	138	142	139
1973 January	119.4	129	122	132	112	117.0	122	116	109	111	104	123	115
February	121.7	133	123	138	114	119.4	126	119	110	114	108	124	118
March	125.4	135	127	140	118	120.8	132	119	109	113	111	124	120
April	129.5	143	132	139	121	122.0	131	121	111	118	111	126	122
May	131.8	146	137	145	121	123.5	132	122	113	120	112	128	123
June	134.1	149	137	148	124	124.9	134	124	113	122	115	129	125
July	139.0	152	140	152	130	126.5	138	125	112	124	116	130	128
August	144.5	160	146	163	134	128.2	140	127	115	126	120	130	130
September	150.3	166	154	171	139	130.6	144	129	117	127	123	132	133
October †	153.7	169	159	183	140	131.6	145	130	121	131	126	133	130
November †	158.3	171	161	210	142	135.0	153	133	125	138	130	135	132
December	166.1	175	165	252	146	139.1	174	135	128	140	132	136	136
1974 January p	175.9	178	173	321	147	141.2	177	137	129	140	132	139	137
February p	188.7	181	179	407	151	145.2	188	140	136	144	138	141	138
March p	199.5	186	189	457	157	151.1	198	145	147	148	144	146	143
April p	206.5	187	194	483	163	156.7	206	150	157	152	150	149	149
May p	210.2	192	199	476	168	159.7	211	153	161	162	154	152	149
Average three months ending													
February 1974	176.9	178	172	327	148	141.8	180	137	131	141	134	139	137
May 1974	205.4	188	194	472	163	155.8	205	150	155	154	149	149	147

• Details not shown due to distortion by dock strike.
p Provisional estimates
† See note (4) about imports through London Airport.

TABLE 3 Import and export volume index numbers (unadjusted) (Overseas trade statistics basis) 1970 = 100

	Imports					Exports							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactured goods	Total	Non-manufactures	Manufactured goods					
								Total	Chemicals	Textiles	Metals	Machinery and transport eqpt.	Other
Section or Division		0 and 1	2 and 4	3	5 to 8		0 to 4	5 to 8	5	65	67 to 69	7	
Weights	1,000	227	151	105	506	1,000	123	844	97	49	119	410	169
1971	104.8	100	91	109	110	109.0	104	110	110	106	107	108	119
1972	116.1	102	93	109	131	111.4	110	112	118	111	108	106	128
1973	132.8	103	104	112	159	126.6	124	128	143	127	123	117	148
1972 1st quarter	115.5	105	90	122	126	107.6	103	109	113	106	103	104	122
2nd quarter	116.8	105	94	111	130	117.4	112	119	130	116	115	112	134
3rd quarter •	106.2					92.4							
4th quarter	126.8	108	104	108	147	126.6	134	126	131	129	126	120	138
1973 1st quarter	134.4	112	105	113	158	121.8	115	124	135	124	121	115	141
2nd quarter	130.8	103	103	115	156	127.7	118	131	147	135	125	121	146
3rd quarter	129.1	95	106	110	155	122.1	123	123	141	120	110	112	147
4th quarter †	138.2	103	106	114	168	134.0	139	133	148	130	127	123	155
1974 1st quarter p	136.5	97	99	116	170	127.7	127	129	161	134	126	119	133
1973 January	143.0	127	113	124	162	127.1	120	129	137	125	126	124	143
February	117.4	91	93	101	140	115.8	105	118	124	115	113	110	138
March	142.8	117	108	115	171	122.3	119	125	145	131	122	112	143
April	116.6	95	95	104	136	123.1	114	126	134	121	119	113	158
May	143.6	112	111	120	174	130.7	124	133	157	143	131	127	131
June	132.3	103	103	122	157	129.4	117	133	151	142	124	123	149
July	133.2	97	104	104	165	129.5	122	132	145	134	122	124	150
August	130.9	95	111	134	152	123.6	126	124	148	119	110	112	149
September	123.0	92	104	93	149	113.3	121	113	130	109	98	101	143
October †	152.6	110	124	135	183	139.8	149	140	158	140	137	127	162
November †	139.8	138	104	112	169	142.0	151	141	154	134	131	128	172
December	122.4	92	90	94	152	120.3	118	119	133	115	113	113	130
1974 January p	133.5	97	101	121	162	118.0	119	118	145	129	123	115	106
February p	132.6	90	95	108	169	128.8	142	128	165	132	127	117	136
March p	143.5	105	101	118	179	136.1	120	139	174	142	129	127	157
April p	140.1	99	99	108	178	132.4	122	135	170	149	111	126	150
May p	145.0	105	109	120	178	146.3	144	148	189	155	125	135	173

• Details not shown due to distortion by dock strike.
p Provisional estimates.
† See note (4) about imports through London Airport.

TABLE 4 Import and export volume index numbers (seasonally adjusted) (Overseas trade statistics basis) 1970 = 100

	Imports					Exports							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactured goods	Total	Non-manufactures	Manufactured goods: Total	Chemicals	Textiles	Metals	Machinery and transport eqpt.	Other
Section or Division		0 and 1	2 and 4	3	5 to 8		0 to 4	5 to 8	5	65	67 to 69	7	
Weights	1,000	227	151	105	506	1,000	123	844	97	49	119	410	169
1972 1st quarter	112.6	100	92	115	123	109.2	108	110	115	108	106	105	123
2nd quarter	113.2	102	94	106	125	113.2	111	115	120	112	110	107	133
3rd quarter •	111.3					99.3							
4th quarter	127.4	107	103	109	150	123.8	123	125	134	124	120	119	137
1973 1st quarter	128.4	105	105	105	150	123.1	120	125	137	126	126	114	143
2nd quarter	128.0	101	103	111	151	125.1	120	128	139	132	124	116	151
3rd quarter	136.8	102	104	119	166	129.9	131	130	147	130	121	122	148
4th quarter †	137.9	103	103	114	170	128.3	124	129	149	122	120	118	151
1974 1st quarter p	136.4	95	104	112	169	130.4	135	131	166	139	131	120	135
1973 January	127.2	114	98	105	148	125.6	120	128	138	125	133	120	139
February	125.3	96	101	106	148	123.6	119	126	132	126	122	117	149
March	132.7	105	115	103	154	120.0	123	120	141	128	122	105	141
April	117.8	98	102	103	136	128.2	119	134	133	126	123	118	185
May	135.6	108	106	112	160	121.1	122	120	140	131	123	113	121
June	130.7	99	101	119	156	126.6	118	128	143	137	125	117	148
July	135.3	100	102	115	164	126.6	124	128	141	134	122	119	147
August	139.7	104	102	137	167	130.3	139	129	151	129	121	121	140
September	135.3	101	108	106	166	132.6	130	133	148	126	122	125	157
October †	142.6	104	116	132	171	129.0	127	130	150	122	124	119	154
November †	136.8	101	100	109	169	131.8	131	131	152	123	119	120	158
December	134.3	103	95	102	171	123.9	113	124	146	120	117	115	142
1974 January p	128.4	93	96	112	159	120.6	122	121	152	133	132	116	107
February p	140.7	94	103	113	177	136.6	159	137	176	143	134	124	145
March p	140.2	99	114	112	170	134.0	124	134	170	139	126	119	155
April p	135.9	98	103	103	171	136.0	123	139	164	151	109	127	168
May p	136.1	102	105	114	165	134.8	143	135	170	143	116	122	159
Average three months ending													
February 1974	134.5	96	98	109	169	127.0	132	127	158	132	128	118	131
May 1974	137.4	100	107	110	168	134.9	130	136	168	144	117	123	161

• Details not shown due to distortion by dock strike.
p Provisional estimates.
† See note (4) about imports through London Airport.

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National Food Survey: household food consumption in the first quarter of 1974

The main results of the National Food Survey for the first quarter of 1974 are summarised in the accompanying tables. They reflect the changes in food consumption and expenditure patterns which resulted from some supply difficulties and the lower level of average earnings caused by restrictions on fuel and power supplies and the three-day working week. The estimates are derived from records provided by a sample of 1,650 households throughout Great Britain.

Between the last quarter of 1973 and the first quarter of 1974 average expenditure on food bought for consumption in the home (excluding sweets and soft drinks) rose by 5p (just under 2 per cent) to £2.91 per person per week, compared with a rise of about 5½ per cent in the general level of food prices. There was a shift in purchases away from some of the more expensive types of food to cheaper foods and some general decrease in the energy and nutrient content of food purchases including meat, poultry, certain processed fruit and vegetables, bread, and some cereal products. The comparison between the first quarter of 1974 and the same quarter of the previous year also shows that actual expenditure rose substantially less than food prices: average expenditure rose by 32p (about 12 per cent) while the general level of food prices rose by nearly 19 per cent.

Household consumption of liquid milk fell from 4.83 pints per person per week in the previous quarter to 4.63 pints and there was also a small decrease in purchases of condensed milk, but consumption of dried milk, yoghurt and cream was fully maintained. Consumption of natural cheese declined further to 3.24 oz. and there was a small decrease in purchases of processed cheese. Although purchases of butter and of margarine both declined slightly to 5.37 oz. and 2.81 oz. respectively, in comparison with a year previously the averages continued to show a displacement of margarine by butter. Purchases of cooking fats, but not of cooking oil, were fully maintained. The average price paid by housewives for eggs remained at 42p per dozen, and consumption was also unchanged at 4.06 eggs per person per week. Purchases of sugar remained at 14.1 oz. and there was a small decrease in consumption of preserves.

The prices paid by housewives for beef, lamb and pork, averaged over all cuts and qualities, were about 2p per lb. higher than in the previous quarter at 59p, 48p and 49p per lb. respectively. Consumption of beef declined only slightly to 7.24 oz. per person per week, but that of lamb continued its downward trend by falling from 4.02 oz. to 3.35 oz.; although purchases of pork increased from 2.85 oz. to 3.05 oz., they continued to be at a lower level than a year earlier.

Consumption of poultry fell from 5.49 oz. to 4.69 oz. (compared with 6.18 oz. in the first quarter of 1973) and the average price remained at approximately 28p per lb. (as purchased weight). There was no significant change in consumption of bacon, and while the totals for meat products and for fish were virtually unchanged, there was some displacement of processed items by frozen varieties within each of these groups.

Consumption of all the principal varieties of fresh vegetables was rather less than in the corresponding period of 1973, and there were also small decreases in purchases of most kinds of canned vegetables, but increases in usage of frozen vegetables and processed potato products. Consumption of fresh fruit averaged 16.72 oz. per person per week compared with 17.35 oz. in the first quarter of 1973, increases in consumption of apples, pears and rhubarb being more than offset by decreases for imported citrus fruits and bananas. Decreases in consumption were also recorded for canned fruits, dried fruit and fruit products; although purchases of fruit juices declined sharply compared with the previous quarter, they remained above the levels recorded a year earlier.

Household purchases of bread fell back to 32.7 oz. per person per week, the same level as that recorded in the first quarter of 1973 when consumption was still following a long-term downward trend; but it is still too early to judge whether or not the current decline represents a resumption of that trend. Purchases of chocolate biscuits, rice, ready-to-eat breakfast cereals, oatmeal and oat products and frozen convenience cereal food all increased compared with levels in the first quarter of 1973, but there were decreases for other flour confectionery and most other cereal products. Consumption of tea, instant coffee, canned soups and pickles were all above the levels recorded a year earlier.

TABLE 1 Estimates of average household food consumption

oz per person per week (a)

	Year 1972	Year 1973	1st Quarter 1973	4th Quarter 1973	1st Quarter 1974
Total household food expenditure	£ 2.41	£ 2.74	£ 2.59	£ 2.85	£ 2.91
Liquid milk (pints)	4.62	4.75	4.83	4.81	4.63
Other milk (eq. pints)	0.40	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.33
Cheese	3.53	3.75	3.63	3.73	3.54
Butter	4.79	5.24	5.12	5.58	5.37
Margarine	3.52	3.03	3.21	2.96	2.81
Lard and compound cooking fats	1.89	1.83	2.02	1.89	1.91
Eggs: purchases (number)	4.24	4.11	4.25	3.91	4.01
consumption (number)	4.41	4.23	4.34	4.05	4.06
Preserves	2.56	2.51	2.59	2.45	2.33
Sugar	15.02	13.69	14.23	14.04	14.06
Beef and veal	6.90	6.31	6.26	7.34	7.24
Mutton and lamb	4.96	4.44	4.98	4.02	3.35
Pork	3.10	3.00	3.29	2.85	3.05
Bacon and ham, uncooked	4.68	4.41	4.66	4.09	4.07
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	0.96	0.93	0.82	0.84	0.72
Poultry and cooked chicken	5.69	6.09	6.18	5.49	4.69
Other cooked meat (not canned)	0.63	0.58	0.51	0.35	0.58
Other canned meat	2.40	2.45	2.50	2.23	2.15
Offals	1.24	1.17	1.35	1.11	1.12
Sausages, uncooked	3.55	3.41	3.37	3.57	3.55
Other meat products: meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat)	0.72	0.75	0.76	0.65	0.61
all other (not frozen)	2.28	2.24	2.30	2.31	2.33
Fish, fresh and processed	3.34	2.97	3.31	2.75	2.67
Canned fish	0.67	0.68	0.61	0.53	0.50
Fish and fish products, frozen	1.04	1.06	1.09	1.01	1.11
Fresh green vegetables	13.28	12.48	11.53	11.08	9.62
Tomatoes fresh	3.66	3.82	2.15	2.90	1.88
Other fresh vegetables	9.86	10.11	11.20	11.94	10.63
Frozen vegetables	2.17	2.78	2.57	2.89	2.76
Canned tomatoes	0.98	0.91	1.06	0.84	1.02
Canned peas	2.95	2.76	2.87	2.56	2.84
Canned beans	3.72	3.78	4.08	3.55	3.67
Potatoes (excluding processed) purchases	42.76	43.26	47.59	49.26	45.99
consumption	46.70	45.93	49.36	52.61	47.69
Citrus fruit	4.80	5.24	7.42	3.27	6.16
Bananas	2.88	2.95	2.73	2.64	2.37
Apples	6.57	6.66	6.01	8.12	6.74
All other fresh fruit	3.29	3.05	1.19	1.94	1.45
Canned fruit	4.34	4.49	4.27	4.02	3.49
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	1.26	1.19	1.05	1.97	1.01
Flour	5.42	5.25	6.28	5.50	4.84
White bread	28.64	27.58	26.94	27.82	27.56
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	2.86	2.76	2.85	2.79	2.49
Other bread	2.94	3.08	2.81	2.86	2.60
Buns, scones and teacakes	1.28	1.07	1.17	1.17	1.05
Cakes and pastries	3.83	3.74	3.62	3.69	3.18
Chocolate biscuits	1.03	1.25	1.10	1.22	1.20
Other biscuits	4.59	4.57	4.38	4.52	4.06
Breakfast cereals	2.86	2.95	2.69	2.90	2.86
Oatmeal and oat products	0.58	0.46	0.61	0.64	0.62
Canned milk puddings	1.52	1.72	1.83	1.78	1.70
Tea	2.24	2.16	2.15	2.19	2.20
Instant coffee	0.46	0.47	0.48	0.48	0.49
Canned soups	3.23	3.58	3.96	4.44	4.26
Pickles and sauces	1.57	1.57	1.43	1.64	1.51

(a) Except where otherwise stated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The recorded declines in purchases of foods including such basic commodities as bread, margarine, preserves, flour, milk, and potatoes, resulted in decreases of about 5 per cent in the levels of most nutrients in the average household diet. After the standard deduction of 10 per cent of all food was made as an allowance for wastage of edible material, the energy content exactly equalled the recommended intake, but because alcohol and some other foods are not included in the Survey, the actual energy intake would be greater. Recent chemical analyses of meat, which were available for the first time during this quarter, resulted in iron and thiamin values about 8 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, lower than would otherwise have been recorded. There were also the usual seasonal declines in vitamin C and vitamin D in the average diet.

The latter changes also affected households with four or more children, but intakes of other nutrients by these families were almost unchanged from the previous quarter.

Notes

The National Food Survey, conducted on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is a continuous sampling enquiry into the domestic food consumption, expenditure and nutrition of private households in Great Britain. It is the only official inquiry which obtains direct measurements of the quantities and varieties of food purchased by housewives, together with the average prices actually paid for food both in Great Britain as a whole and by different sectors of the population. Detailed reports are published annually. The latest volume, published on 17 June, 1974 gave information on household food consumption and expenditure in 1972.

The number of households from which the estimates were derived in the first quarter of 1974 was smaller than usual because the fieldwork of the Survey was suspended from 14 February to 3 March while the General Election campaign was in progress.

TABLE 2 Estimates of average household food expenditure

new pence per person per week

	Year 1972	Year 1973	1st Quarter 1973	4th Quarter 1973	1st Quarter 1974
Total household food expenditure	240.80	274.12	258.78	285.49	290.73
Liquid milk	24.20	25.72	25.98	25.90	25.27
Other milk	2.57	2.73	2.43	2.72	2.52
Cheese	7.16	7.93	7.61	7.95	7.91
Butter	7.65	6.92	6.97	7.27	7.23
Margarine	3.01	2.69	2.72	2.84	2.95
Lard and compound cooking fats	1.14	1.25	1.18	1.58	1.78
Eggs	7.56	11.01	8.72	13.74	14.02
Preserves	1.94	2.13	2.08	2.16	2.20
Sugar	4.44	4.19	4.02	4.56	4.60
Beef and veal	18.46	21.92	21.10	25.97	26.63
Mutton and lamb	9.66	11.15	11.15	11.42	9.91
Pork	6.55	8.06	8.45	8.37	9.30
Bacon and ham, uncooked	9.70	12.35	11.54	12.68	13.12
Bacon and ham, cooked (including canned)	3.32	3.91	2.99	4.05	3.58
Poultry and cooked chicken	6.93	9.47	8.43	9.77	8.26
Other cooked meat (not canned)	1.74	1.89	1.55	1.85	2.12
Other canned meat	4.18	5.19	4.63	5.13	5.00
Offals	2.16	2.59	2.72	2.68	2.81
Sausages, uncooked	4.85	5.63	5.16	6.33	6.45
Other meat products:					
meat pies and sausage rolls (ready-to-eat)	1.06	1.24	1.17	1.13	1.16
all others (not frozen)	3.71	4.57	4.35	4.99	5.24
Fish, fresh and processed	6.48	7.29	7.24	7.33	7.85
Canned fish	1.96	2.01	1.78	1.60	1.79
Fish and fish products, frozen	2.20	2.62	2.49	2.78	3.28
Fresh green vegetables	4.32	4.81	4.44	4.43	4.95
Tomatoes, fresh	3.52	3.94	2.89	2.79	2.85
Other fresh vegetables	3.91	4.89	4.78	4.80	5.01
Frozen vegetables	2.07	2.67	2.45	2.77	2.86
Canned tomatoes	0.46	0.57	0.55	0.63	0.86
Canned peas	1.31	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.47
Canned beans	1.81	1.85	1.94	1.82	2.26
Potatoes (excluding processed)	5.79	6.82	5.92	5.95	6.52
Citrus fruit	2.50	2.90	3.88	2.39	3.58
Bananas	1.62	1.86	1.54	1.74	1.70
Apples	3.44	4.08	4.23	3.64	3.80
All other fresh fruit	1.90	2.08	0.95	1.42	1.08
Canned fruit	2.84	3.37	2.95	3.28	2.98
Dried fruit, nuts and fruit and nut products	1.38	1.74	1.25	3.32	1.75
Flour	1.33	1.42	1.54	1.56	1.76
White bread	11.02	11.32	10.68	12.18	14.02
Brown, wholewheat and wholemeal bread	1.38	1.46	1.41	1.58	1.61
Other bread	2.49	2.83	2.40	2.79	2.92
Buns, scones and teacakes	1.34	1.21	1.17	1.32	1.35
Cakes and pastries	5.54	5.94	5.41	6.50	5.74
Chocolate biscuits	1.96	2.34	2.13	2.37	2.53
Other biscuits	4.44	4.82	4.22	4.92	4.62
Breakfast cereals	2.73	2.94	2.59	2.97	3.27
Oatmeal and oat products	0.34	0.28	0.33	0.42	0.48
Canned milk puddings	0.66	0.78	0.81	0.85	0.83
Tea	4.81	4.79	4.78	4.86	4.89
Instant coffee	2.91	3.24	3.17	3.44	3.39
Canned soups	1.65	1.97	2.09	2.54	2.54
Pickles and sauces	1.42	1.51	1.35	1.65	1.59
Other foods	17.30	19.97	19.19	20.52	22.54

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

TABLE 3 Energy value and nutrient content of the household diet as a percentage of recommended intakes (a) (b)

	National averages					Households with four or more children			
	Year 1972	Year 1973	1st Quarter 1973	4th Quarter 1973	1st Quarter 1974	Year 1972	Year 1973	Averages of the January-March quarters in the three most recent years	Moving averages year ended January -March 1974
Energy	105	104	105	107	100	99	94	93	93
Protein	125	124	126	125	121	114	109	109	107
Calcium	189	193	193	195	187	157	158	156	156
Iron	123	118	119	121	106	111	100	101	99
Thiamin	137	134	134	135	124	138	130	127	127
Riboflavin	131	132	133	133	127	131	127	126	125
Nicotinic acid equivalent	194	193	195	196	186	190	180	180	178
Vitamin C	184	189	163	178	151	155	158	124	154
Vitamin A (retinol equivalent)	198	190	194	197	184	182	172	174	171
Vitamin D (c)	88	89	88	84	80	68	79	69	74

(a) Department of Health and Social Security. *Recommended Intakes of Nutrients for the United Kingdom* Report on Public Health and Medical Subjects, No. 120, H.M.S.O., 1969.
(b) All values make allowance for wastage in the home of ten per cent of the edible portion of food bought, and for expected losses of nutrients during cooking.
(c) The Survey does not evaluate welfare and pharmaceutical sources of this (or any other) vitamin. Furthermore, most adults need no dietary Vitamin D, since they obtain all they need from the action of sunlight on the skin.

Motor vehicle output in June

Summary

Output of both cars and commercial vehicles in June fell back slightly from the high levels achieved in May; for the second quarter as a whole, production in both sectors was the same as in the second quarter of last year.

In the five weeks to 29 June car output was 165,955 units, a weekly average of 33,191, 9 per cent below the comparable period of 1973. Commercial vehicle output of 41,264 units (8,253 per week) was 15 per cent below the June 1973 level.

(The comments which follow are unless otherwise stated based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2).

Cars

Car output in June was 140,000 units, 10 per cent below the high figure of May, but 11 per cent above the average for the first five months of this year. The drop in production compared with the previous month's total was entirely due to reduced output for the home market, which fell 17 per cent. Production for export rose slightly to 58,000 units, the highest since last November, while the proportion of total output destined for export, at over 41 per cent, was the highest since August 1971. In the second quarter as a whole production was markedly higher than in the depressed first quarter but practically unchanged at 138,000 per month from the level in the second quarter of 1973.

Commercial vehicles

Output of commercial vehicles, at 33,500 units, registered a small drop for the second month running, but was nonetheless 8 per cent higher than the average for the first five months of the year. The proportion of output scheduled for export was, as last month, a little over

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,045	416,619	8,012
1974	52								
1973 1st quarter	13	320,052	158,532	478,584	36,814	69,954	36,346	106,300	8,177
2nd quarter	13	290,253	155,749	446,002	34,308	69,399	39,980	109,379	8,414
3rd quarter	13	229,505	122,313	351,818	27,063	54,106	36,031	90,137	6,934
4th quarter	13	302,406	168,511	470,917	36,224	64 115	46,688	110,803	8,523
1974 1st quarter	13	237,235	150,688	387,923	29,840	52,641	36,845	89,486	6,884
2nd quarter	13	275,355	164,041	439,396	33,800	63,122	46,063	109,185	8,399
3rd quarter	13								
4th quarter	13								
1973 January	5	135,970	61,705	197,675	39,535	28,419	12,597	41,016	8,203
February	4	89,426	48,206	137,632	34,408	21,401	12,054	33,455	8,364
March	4	94,656	48,621	143,277	35,819	20,134	11,695	31,829	7,957
April	4	80,647	45,380	126,027	31,507	18,957	11,278	30,235	7,559
May	5	111,333	62,019	173,352	34,670	26,613	13,684	40,297	8,059
June	4	98,273	48,350	146,623	36,656	23,829	15,018	38,847	9,712
July	4	66,106	33,344	99,450	24,863	16,054	12,041	28,095	7,024
August	4	76,537	41,956	118,493	29,623	14,437	8,754	23,191	5,798
September	5	86,862	47,013	133,875	26,775	23,615	15,236	38,851	7,770
October	4	100,661	56,057	156,718	39,180	23,475	16,046	39,521	9,880
November	4	98,926	55,819	154,745	38,686	18,659	12,490	31,149	7,787
December	5	102,819	56,635	159,454	31,891	21,981	18,152	40,133	8,027
1974 January	4	61,781	37,628	99,409	24,852	13,989	9,595	23,584	5,896
February	4	73,721	50,721	124,442	31,110	16,048	11,428	27,476	6,869
March	5	101,730	62,339	164,069	32,814	22,604	15,822	38,426	7,685
April	4	74,411	40,917	115,328	28,832	18,881	12,913	31,794	7,948
May	4	99,873	58,240	158,113	39,528	20,614	16,513	36,127	9,032
June	5	101,071	64,884	165,955	33,191	23,627	17,637	41,264	8,253
July	4								
August	4								
September	5								
October	4								
November	4								
December	5								

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1972, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

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42 per cent, compared with the average of 38 per cent in 1973. Output in the second quarter, at 33,900 units per month had fully recovered from the low level caused by three-day working earlier this year, to equal production in the second quarter of last year.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of a regularly recurring influence (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and in the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974						
1973 1st quarter	99	47	146	22.2	11.8	34.0
2nd quarter	91	48	139	21.7	12.1	33.8
3rd quarter	97	51	148	23.0	14.5	37.5
4th quarter	93	56	149	19.0	14.6	33.6
1974 1st quarter	74	44	118	16.9	12.0	28.9
2nd quarter	87	51	138	20.0	13.9	33.9
3rd quarter						
4th quarter						
1973 January	111	50	161	22.9	11.7	34.6
February	92	44	136	22.5	12.2	34.7
March	95	46	141	21.2	11.7	32.9
April	85	44	129	20.8	11.4	32.2
May	90	50	140	20.7	10.4	31.1
June	97	52	149	23.7	14.4	38.1
July	108	54	162	24.6	16.6	41.2
August	103	54	157	21.5	13.4	34.9
September	81	44	125	23.0	13.4	36.4
October	100	58	158	22.0	16.8	38.8
November	94	58	152	16.8	12.2	29.0
December	86	52	138	18.1	14.7	32.8
1974 January	64	38	102	14.3	11.5	25.8
February	77	47	124	17.1	11.7	28.8
March	82	48	130	19.2	12.7	31.9
April	79	40	119	21.0	13.2	34.2
May	99	57	156	19.6	14.4	34.0
June	82	58	140	19.4	14.1	33.5
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Average of:						
Jan.-Mar. 1974	74	44	118	16.9	12.0	28.9
Apr.-June 1974	87	51	138	20.0	13.9	33.9
Percentage change	+17	+17	+17	+19	+16	+18

Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries

In the three months ended April 1974, deliveries by the clothing industry were provisionally estimated to have been 9 per cent lower than in the three months ended January 1974, net new orders however were 5 per cent higher and orders-on-hand at the end of April were 14 per cent above the end January level.

(These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of the volume of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)	Net new orders	Deliveries
	December 1969 = 100	Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	Average 1970 Deliveries = 100
1968	107	100	97
1969	100	97	97
1970	103	102	100
1971	119	108	104
1972	125	110	109
1973 p	157	124	117

	Orders-on-hand (end period)		Net new orders		Deliveries	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1971 1st quarter	100	107	106	110	107	104
2nd quarter	123	115	117	111	101	104
3rd quarter	103	110	92	101	103	104
4th quarter	119	119	117	109	105	104
1972 1st quarter	107	113	99	105	107	105
2nd quarter	124	116	117	110	104	106
3rd quarter	112	120	100	112	108	109
4th quarter	125	125	124	113	116	115
1973 1st quarter	144	153	126	131	116	112
2nd quarter	175	163	136	131	116	120
3rd quarter	149	160	102	113	114	116
4th quarter p	157	157	131	119	122	120
1974 1st quarter p	152	162	104	109	100	98
1972 July	113	111	83	101	106	110
August	116	123	101	128	97	108
September	112	120	116	108	122	110
October	124	126	150	121	130	115
November	137	128	148	119	122	116
December	125	125	73	99	95	114
1973 January	137	134	116	134	100	111
February	137	141	125	132	124	118
March	144	153	137	126	123	108
April	155	164	138	142	120	123
May	169	155 r	141	114	112	117
June	175	163	129	138	117	119
July	161	158	90	110	111	116
August	157	166	97	121	102	114
September	149	160	118	109	130	117
October p	161	162	167	133	138	122
November p	166	155	143	114	130	123
December p	157	157	83	110	97	115
1974 January p	155	152	89	108	86	99
February p	157	162	114	120	101	95
March p	152	162	108	99	114	100
April p	164	174	127	131	110	111

British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstracts 1886–1968

This unique standard work of reference brings together all the main series of official statistics compiled by the Department of Employment and its predecessors since 1886, plus some for even earlier years. It contains 389 pages of tables and 50 pages of text and the subjects covered are wage rates, earnings, hours of work, retail prices, employment, unemployment, vacancies, family expenditure, industrial accidents, and disputes, membership of trade unions, labour costs and output per head. This will be a most valuable source-book for everyone concerned with the study and formulation of economic policies. **£7** (by post £7.25)

Also available

British Labour Statistics: Year book 1971 **£7.20** (by post £7.47)

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HMSO BOOKS

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks

In the three months ended April 1974 deliveries were estimated to be 2 per cent higher, on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis, than in the three months ended January 1974. Net new orders were 2 per cent lower than in the previous three months and at the end of April orders on hand were 2 per cent down on the January 1974 level. The index of production in the three months ended April 1974 was 3 per cent higher than in the three months ended January 1974.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumer expenditure, prices and employment are published in the Business Monitor Production Series under the reference PQ 450.

The table below is compiled from the results of the monthly and quarterly inquiries which started at the beginning of 1971 and the KS inquiry which they superseded. Linkage factors spanning the fourth quarter 1970 and the first quarter 1971 have been calculated from matching samples of firms contributing to both the old and new inquiries and the KS results adjusted to provide a single, broadly comparable series. Since the linking factors cover only two quarters however, the amended back data for 1966-70 should be interpreted with caution.

The index of production is calculated from the value of total sales of work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (Minimum List Heading 450 of the standard industrial classification). The movements shown by the index numbers will frequently differ from those shown by the absolute figures of pairage and value which relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC.

Index of production: Orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of production 1970 = 100	Orders on hand (end period)			Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs
1966		33.6			..			16.4			
1967		37.8			16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6			17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6			15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9			16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5		55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5		59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
197[illegible]	108	44.8		84.8	16.8		30.5	15.6		28.4	16.5
	Seasonally adjusted	Actua	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actua	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1973 1st quarter	104	36.2	35.1	62.4	18.1	16.9	29.6	15.9	15.7	28.7	18.7
2nd quarter	106	45.8	40.7	86.5	18.0	17.8	34.0	14.9	15.9	25.9	20.6
3rd quarter	115	40.6	48.4	73.9	13.7	18.0	25.0	15.5	15.5	29.2	16.3
4th quarter	107	44.8	46.6	84.8	17.4	14.6	33.3	16.0	15.2	29.7	16.5
1974 1st quarter p	104	52.1	51.6	87.3	16.3	15.6	29.7	13.9	14.0	28.9	13.6
1973 January	98	33.1	38 1	61.7	18.1	21.5	27.9	14.5	15.2	25.8	
February	109	34.5	37.0	61.4	16.8	14.6	27.8	15.4	15.6	28.1	
March	105	36.2	35.1	62.4	19.5	14.5	32.1	17.8	16.4	32.2	
April	109	41.0	36.1	75.2	19.5	17.2	38.8	14.8	16.2	25.9	
May	105	45.4	37.8	86.7	20.1	17.4	38 6	15.6	15.8	27.0	
June	103	45.8	40.7	86.5	14.5	18.7	24.6	14.1	15.7	24.9	
July	114	42.7	44.2	76.6	11.9	19.3	17.4	15.0	15.8	27.3	
August	121	41.3	46.7	75.2	14.0	18.4	27.9	15.4	15.9	29.3	
September	109	40.6	48.4	73.9	15.4	16.3	29.7	16.1	14.7	31.0	
October	104	44.2	50.7	80.9	22.4	17.1	42.2	18.8	14.8	35.2	
November	110	47.6	50.5	92.1	20.8	15.7	43.1	17.4	15.8	31.9	
December	107	44.8	46.6	84.8	8.9	11.0	14.6	11.8	14.9	21.9	
1974 January p	98	46.3	51.3	84.8	14.0	17.8	25.4	12.5	13.1	25.4	
February p	100	50.6	53.3	86.4	17.3	15.3	28.7	13.0	13.2	27.1	
March p	112	52.1	51.6	87.3	17.5	13.8	35.0	16.1	15.5	34.1	
April p	114	54.1	50.4	91.4	17.2	14.6	35.3	15.1	15.8	31.2	

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour, Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

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HMSO BOOKS

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	30 May 1974
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	18 July 1974
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	18 Apr. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	6 June 1974
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 Mar. 1974
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	11 July 1974
Catering trades turnover (M)	11 July 1974
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Aug. 1973
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	30 May 1974
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	25 July 1974
N. Ireland (M)	This week
Computers: UK market (Q)	24 May 1973
Construction work overseas (A)	11 Oct. 1973
Electronics capital equipment (Q)	21 June 1973
Energy trends (M)	25 July 1974
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	25 July 1974
Film industry:	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	4 July 1974
cinema admissions and takings (M)	18 July 1974
overseas payments and earnings (A)	This week
registration of films (A)	31 Jan. 1974
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	2 May 1974
household consumption (Q)	This week
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	This week
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	11 July 1974
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	25 July 1974
Hire-purchase business (M)	4 July 1974
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	25 July 1974
N. Ireland index (M)	25 July 1974
Wales index (Q)	11 Apr. 1974
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	6 June 1974
investment and earnings overseas (A)	13 June 1974
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	13 June 1974
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	23 May 1974
production (M)	25 July 1974
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	23 May 1974
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	This week
estimated figures (M)	18 July 1974
motor trade turnover (Q)	23 May 1974
Office development permits (Q)	16 May 1974
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	27 June 1974
UK overseas trade in 1973	16 May 1974
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	This week
value: analysis of trends (Q)	16 May 1974
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Retail prices index (M)	25 July 1974
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	4 July 1974
provisional figures	18 July 1974
sales, N. Ireland (M)	18 July 1974
stocks (M)	11 July 1974
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	27 June 1974
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	6 Dec. 1973
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	16 May 1974
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	11 July 1974
retail (M)	11 July 1974
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	This week
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	25 Apr. 1974
carpet sales (M)	11 July 1974
cotton industry production (M)	11 July 1974
hosiery production (M)	11 July 1974
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	This week
orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	25 July 1974
wool exports (Q)	14 June 1973
wool output (M)	11 July 1974
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	25 July 1974
overseas travel and tourism (A)	21 Feb. 1974
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	4 Apr. 1974
index numbers (M)	11 July 1974

Departmental organisation etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representation overseas	4 July 1974
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	23 May 1974
Guide to Departments	6 June 1974
Official Receivers' offices	18 July 1974
Programme of trade promotions	18 July 1974
Release dates of economic statistics	25 July 1974

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SATURDAY 17th AUGUST, 1974

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Government Sales

Department of the Environment

6 August 1974

Location: Department of the Environment, Supplies Division Stores, India Pavilion, Exhibition Grounds, Wembley, Middlesex (Tel: 01-903 2608)

Auctioneers: Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell, 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (Tel: 01-248 7954)

Office and miscellaneous furniture, engineering, electrical, canteen, domestic and other equipment, etc.

Catalogue: direct from auctioneer, price 10p each.

Ministry of Defence

7 August 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The City Auction Galleries, Kinterbury House, St. Andrew's Cross, Plymouth

Auctioneers: Woolland, Son & Manico (Dept. L), Kinterbury House, St. Andrew's Cross, Plymouth PL1 2DQ (Tel: 0752 69292)

The lots include greatcoats, raincoats, jackets, trousers, blouses, jerseys, underwear, shirts, overalls, pillow slips, sleeping bags, kit bags, suitcases, blankets, sheets, mattress covers, foam mattresses, ankle boots and knee boots, shoes, hammocks, counterpanes and bedspreads, ground sheets, tentage and mixed rags. Wooden and steel furnishings including desks, tables, chairs, writing tables, filing cabinets, camp beds, bedsteads, lockers, wardrobes, dressing chests, sideboards and safes. Kitchen china and glassware, carpets, tea urns, watches, clocks, binoculars, telescopes, barometers, torches, oscilloscopes, photographic equipment, projectors, telephone sets, kettles, desk lamps, speakers, lights, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners and sweepers, toasters, heaters, primus stoves, test meters and test sets, gauges, lamps, lanterns, butchers chopping blocks, bread and bacon slicing machines, portable drills, scrap batteries and tyres, electric cable, chain blocks and tackles, ball, roller and taper bearings, hoses, paint, cycles, petrol engines, fuel tankers, Ford Cortina estate car, Austin van and Morris Minor.

13 August 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester, Oxon.

Auctioneers: Midland Marts Ltd. (Dept. L), Market Square, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7AL (Tel: 08692 2073)

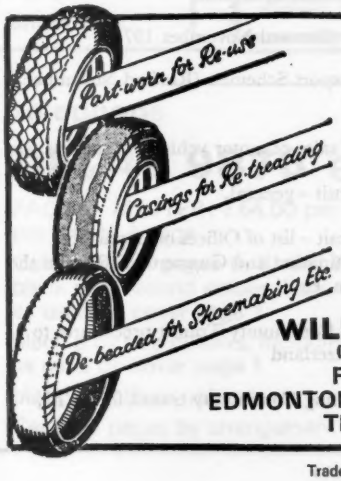
Clothing and textiles comprising 75,000 battledress blouses, 15,000 battledress trousers, greatcoats, pullovers, bush jackets, khaki drill trousers and shorts, boots, blankets, carpets, rags. Furniture including chairs, tables, writing bureaux, wardrobes, sideboards, dressing chests and bedsteads. Saloon cars, estate cars, minibuses, double decker bus, vans, Land Rover, Coles 10 ton crane, Neal 4 ton crane, Tasker 16 wheel trailer, fork lift trucks, industrial tractors, centre lathes, capstan lathe, milling machine, etc. A large quantity of canvas tentage, 2,300 bivouac tents, sleeping bags, 8,000 groundsheets, canvas valises and 24,500 haversacks. Also a large quantity of tyres, Ford petrol engines, MT spares, ground power supply units, air compressors, chain blocks and tackle, jacks, hand tools, electrical equipment, wristwatches, kitchen equipment and many other items of miscellaneous stores.

Catalogues for the above sales, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the relevant auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901, Thomas More Building, Royal Court of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.



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Customs notices of interest to exporters

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General Notices

17 (May 1973) Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.

49 Temporary importations: international co-operation.

104 Temporary importations and exportations under ATA and ECS Carnets.

112 Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.

112A Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.

118 Samples imported for promoting export trade.

207 Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.

210 Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.

221 Process Inwards Relief and Pre-financing of export refunds on products for process.

223 Export relief on goods exported in the same state as at import ('Same state section 7 relief').

241 European Economic Community: Compensatory, Levy and Addendum thereto.

275 Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.

290 Export of personal and household effects.

300 Export reliefs scheduling scheme.

703 VAT – Exports. (Revised November 1973)

704 VAT – Retail Export Schemes. (Revised November 1973)

705 VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.

750 Community transit – general.

750A Community transit – list of Offices of Departure, Transit and Destination and Guarantee Offices in the United Kingdom, etc.

750B Extension of the Community Transit procedures to Austria and Switzerland

751 Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.

752 Free circulation of goods in the European Communities.

753 Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.

754 Documentation for fish caught by British fishing vessels.

755 Community transit – special control procedures.

756 Instructions on the use of loading lists as descriptive parts of forms T1, T2 or T3.

774 Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.

800 EEC Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds and export licences.

810 EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreement between the EEC and EFTA countries.

810A EEC Preferences – EFTA countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.

812, 812A EEC Preferences – Turkey.

815 (June 1973) EEC Preferences – Morocco.

817 (June 1973) EEC Preferences – Tunisia.

818 (June 1973) EEC Preferences – Egypt.

819 (May 1973) EEC Preferences – Cyprus.

820 (July 1973) EEC Preferences – Lebanon.

821 EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customs about the origin of goods.

830 Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

Drawback

7 Drawback on mixed or blended beers when exported or deposited in bonded warehouse.

132A Sugar: cessation of Import Duties and Imposition of Levies under the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC and the Sugar Board Charge.

172 Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of duty.

224 The examination of bottled beer, exported on drawback, at the premises of a licensed brewer for sale, or beer dealer, as an alternative to examination on the quay.

291 Claims for drawback on goods exported where there has been a variation in the duty rate.

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